THIS MONTH: 707 New Jersey BBSs

January 1994

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

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FidoNet/USENET Mail Firehose From the Sky

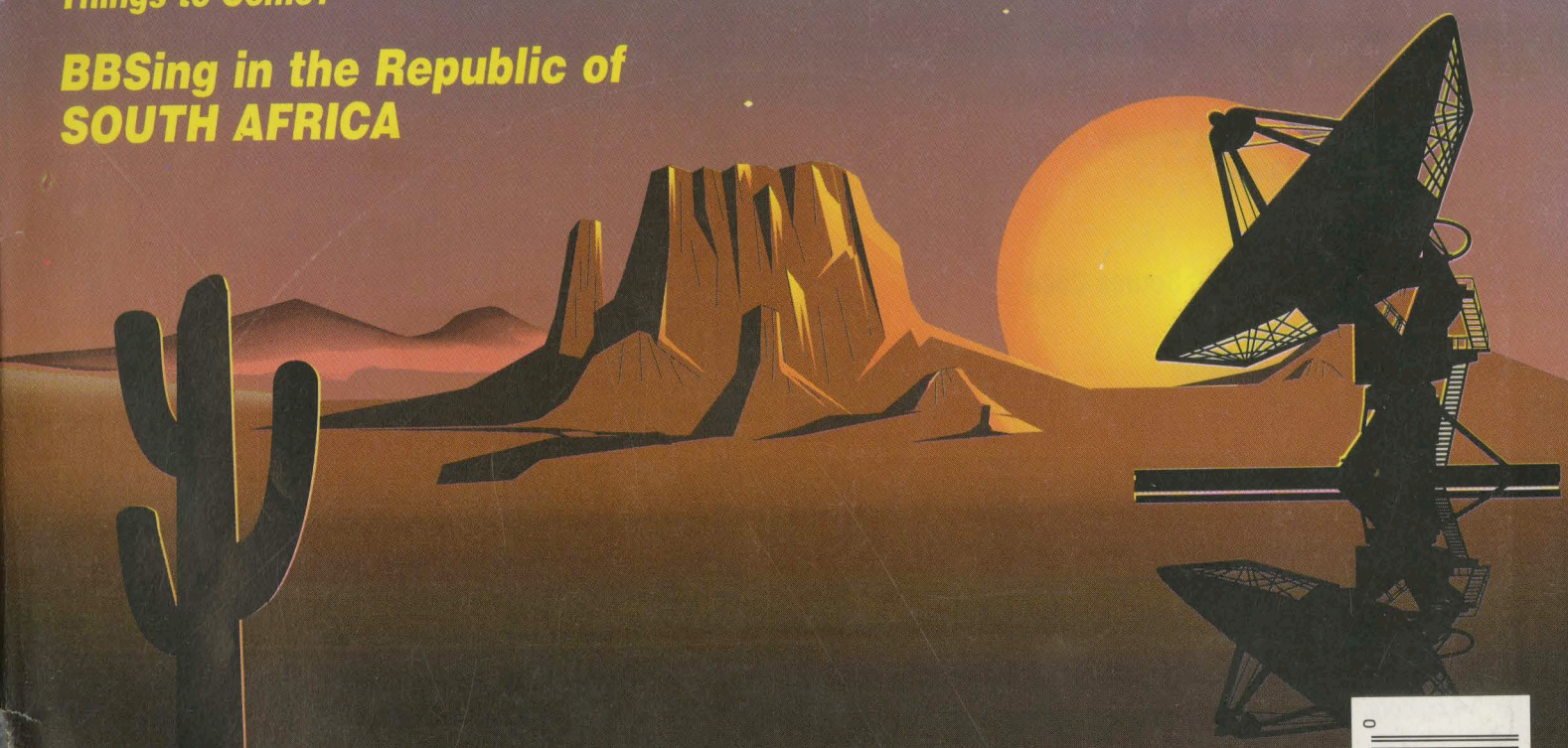
Mosaic and the World Wide Web

Window Multimedia and a Global Internet Encyclopedia Online

Internet Via Cable TV

The Shape of Things to Come?

BBSing in the Republic of SOUTH AFRICA



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January 1994

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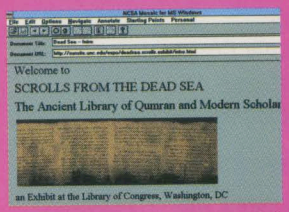

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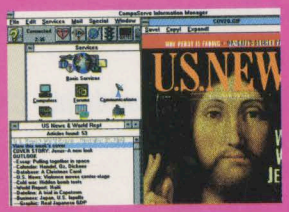

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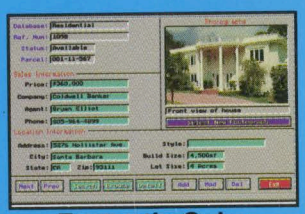

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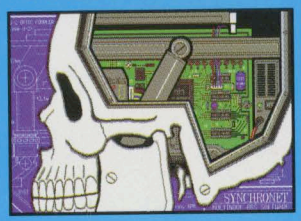

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Mister, Can You Spare a Chicken?

I've been puzzling over something for several weeks, without a lot of progress towards a solution. I'm not even too certain I can describe the problem cogently, and that's probably part of the difficulty in devising a solution. And it occurs to me that I may not even be the one that should be pondering this. But I think we have a money problem.

At home, my wife handles whatever money matters might arise, and here at Boardwatch, Rob King rather expertly tracks the comings and goings of dollars and cents. Each of them know better than to allow me to carry more than about $5 in my pocket, and generally, they have to pin a note to my lapel telling me which pocket it's in lest I be found starved to death laying in a pizzeria someplace just a few yards from food.

That said, we do appear to have a money problem. I understand that money problems are generally not unusual, but this one may be a little bit of a secret, or at least not generally well known.

We don't have any.

I suppose that at some time in the distant past, the world worked on a barter system. I'd trade you a couple of chickens for a pizza. You'd eat one of the chickens, and couple the other with a pig to buy a wheelbarrow. It was all a little awkward, but that's probably how "trade" got started.

At some point along the way, we all agreed that something more portable, transferrable, and universal could be used to represent chickens, pizzas, and pigs. Rare metals such as gold and silver, in relatively short supply, small, transportable, and valued in and of themselves could be used as money to grease the exchange of farm animals and Italian baked goods.

The precious metals eventually were "minted" to uniform size and purity, and lots of dead guys were found depicted on them so we could all recognize "real" gold from, let us say, simulated gold or silver. Within my lifetime, cash was what money was and had been for many centuries.

But cash works best in an exchange between two parties in close enough proximity to pass it from one hand to the next. Most anything bought until the last 30 years was bought in person. You walked, drove, or trotted to the place where the goods were, and handed the guy some dollar bills. In exchange, he graciously allowed you to leave with some of his stuff in an unventilated-by-bullets fashion.

We've rather moved away from that. Today, goods are bought and sold and traded on a national and international basis, not just by governments and enormous economic entities, but by anyone that can master the technological intricacies of dialing a touch-tone phone. Advertising goes out in magazines and television commercials broadcast to literally hundreds of millions of people. Toll-free 800 lines sweep in the sales from around a continent. Mail order firms by the thousands offer millions of different products delivered right to your door from a warehouse a partial planet distant. Fax machines squeal day and night. Commerce is at least continental, and in many cases global, for the individual Tom, Dick, and proverbial Harry.

The problem of course is that you can't really do this by cash because you may not even be on the same coast. We have developed some items like checks and increasingly credit cards, that represent the cash that represents the wealth in most indirect ways. But a credit card number isn't really finite, and it isn't really, well, **REAL**.

As a result, it can be very easy to simulate something that already exists as a simulation. Today, some of these money "patches" appear to work more or less. But they don't really work. One of the reasons is that the system is too easy to defraud.

It isn't talked about much outside of banking circles. And the average consumer is convinced that the difference between the current prime rate and the interest rate charged on credit cards is all greedy bankers grabbing the difference. Similarly, the difference between what banks make loans for now, and what they pay at treasury auctions and to their depositors, compared to the current level of inflation, looks like a crime in motion. Yet while banks are modestly better off than they were a year or two ago financially, they just aren't all that profitable. And the numbers just don't all add up. Where is all the money going?

Within financial circles, where it is going is no secret at all. They just don't know quite how to break the news to anyone. It's fraud and it has reached such epidemic proportions that our entire economy is paying an ENORMOUS tax on every transaction, basically because our simulated currency is too easy to simulate.

The electronic transfer methods, the ATM's, the Master Card and Visa, the American Express, are being taken to the ground wholesale on a daily basis. The banks, check guarantee firms, and credit card networks are surviving by playing a kind of statistical Russian roulette. And every time the hammer falls on a live chamber it blows part of YOUR brains out, not theirs - as long as they can stay a step ahead of the game. And that's what the interest rate pad is doing there now, paying the losses. All very quietly, but in HUGE amounts.

The heart of it is that greasy paper dollar bills don't cut it as money in a long distance economy. And we haven't come up with anything nearly as good to replace it. So right now, we just forfeit about 10% of every transaction to make it appear to work a little while longer.

The flow of commerce into electronic media really is picking up steam. And one of its hallmarks is that we can now deal more on a many-to-many basis to a greater degree than previously. What this means is that for money to really work in an electronic society, everyone must be able to ACCEPT the electronic money as easily as they can spend it. And right now only a few of the most trustworthy businesses can get merchant accounts to accept MC/VISA, as one example, at all. And entire business "classes" are being redlined regularly and their merchant accounts cancelled to try to stem the tide of fraud. The system is failing and one bandaid after another is being slapped on in hushed tones hoping to put off the final day of accounting.

Technology is rapidly moving to accelerate the problem. As electronic media become more facile, the broadening of commerce online exacerbates the situation. It is my observation that many many things that people want to do online simply can't be done because there is no way to transfer value that

isn't terribly complicated, eaten up with administrative costs, or doesn't work and is too much trouble for anyone to bother with. We're back to the awkwardness of trading chickens for pizza, and the online economy is in danger of stagnation if we can't invent some money. What we need to move forward is a form of CyberCash that works. And if we can solve this problem, we can not only move forward in the online world, but we get a 10% payraise in the world of the street as well. And I'm a little frustrated that I just don't seem to be smart enough to puzzle out how to do it.

I can note some characteristics CyberCash would have to have:

1. It must be incremental. You should be able to give someone a quarter without it costing $1.25 in administrative costs to do so. There's a reason for pocket change, and we need it electronically as well. The many plans for electronic "vending machines" will never get off the ground without the electronic equivalent of quarters.

2. It must be finite. If you have a dollar, nobody else can have the same one at the same time. If you give it to somebody else, it isn't yours any more, no matter how badly you wish it was, or how shoddy the merchandise turns out to be, or how much you have changed your mind.

3. It should be anonymous. You should be able to give it to someone without having to give them a urinalysis report, your life's history, and 17 ways to track you down later. Cash, though serialized, was pretty good at preserving a person's privacy. Our government has very overtly sought to eliminate this little item, and it is time we put a stop to THAT as well. You shouldn't have to personally vouche for the value of the money, it is already valuable without you, or must be to be money.

4. It must be portable. It should be a relatively simple and painless process to hand someone a buck, not a career change. If you have to type in 45 digits, a pin code, an expiration date, and your mother's maiden name, I'm already lost and effectively penniless.

5. It must be unrestricted in use. It has to be translatable across the entire economy. Money that is only good for a particular thing isn't money at all - its scrip. You should be able to use it for everything from accessing the library of congress to purchasing cigarettes - yes, you should even be able to sin with real money.

6. It should be non-directional. That is not to say everyone automatically has it, but it should flow in all directions with equal fluidity. You should be able to accept money with approximately the same transactional dispatch as you can give it to someone else. Acceptance of money should not be the province of the trustworthy. Everyone is an equal in the giving and taking of money.

7. It must be immune to fraud. If anyone can easily debase the currency, you don't have a currency, and we're back to the original problem. It's ok to have people defrauding people. But you just can't have people defrauding the money system and still have a money system.

8. It should be believable. A money system is basically a belief system. If everyone doesn't agree that it is money, it isn't.

9. It should be simple. If you can't write down the conceptual solution on the face of a dollar bill, you probably don't have one.

Our communications and distribution systems for moving goods in this country have become awesome in their reach, power, and efficiency. I just placed 66,000 newsstand copies of this magazine in nearly 8000 stores on four continents in less than two weeks and never left the room. I could not personally physically move more than a few hundred copies myself across the hall to the men's room in a day. The potential of a future economy that takes advantage of these distribution systems coupled with the communications ability that now allows people to retrieve product information, reach a buying decision, and order the goods globally is virtually UNLIMITED. The global financial results of the much discussed NAFTA agreement currently under hot debate would be entirely lost in the rounding errors. But until we develop a medium of exchange more elegant than swapping chickens for pizza, we can't take another step forward. Worse, our system is actually coming apart at the seams even from where we stand now.

And after spending an inordinate amount of time the past few weeks puzzling over this matter, I can admit in print that I'm entire clueless as to how to fix it. Since our readership just happens to be made up almost entirely of gentlemen and ladies, scholars all, extraordinary in their cleverness of intellect and widely noted for their resourcefulness, I would ask for the good of all that you each devote an hour or so of considered thought to pondering the vagaries of this conundrum and forward all plausible solutions to the body politic for consideration.

On another topic, we welcome a new columnist this issue. John C. Dvorak probably needs no introduction, but it's taken us a long time to get into a position where we could give him one, and so I'm disinclined to pass on the opportunity. I've been reading Dvorak's columns since the year of our Lord, 1981, when he resided mainly on the back page of the early InfoWorld. He actually began championing the online schtick as early as 1984, and almost single handedly made it possible to get a book on modems and data communications published in this country - a genre that may be getting actually a bit crowded at this stage. He plugged Boardwatch in a PC Magazine column in 1989 that gave us a much needed boost in those days - possibly a good part of the reason we're still here. And he's done a lot for the online community all along the way. We are really most pleased to welcome him as a regular columnist in these pages.

Jack Rickard
Editor Rotundus
Boardwatch Magazine

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Jack:

I whole heartedly enjoy your magazine. The only problem is, I sit down as soon as I get it in the mail and read it from cover to cover. Then I have to wait til the next month. In between issues, I go back through my back issues and reread different parts I marked for reference.

I started La Grange Satellite Systems in 1979 while I was Mayor of La Grange and looking for a cable company for the City. It wasn't a planned venture. I just kinda got into it. When home satellite sales fell off due to scrambling in 1987, I sorta got into another business, Mark Twain Computer Mfg., Inc., and started building home computers. I got into this business because a whole lot of satellite dealers needed computers to burn eproms for these descramblers.

I started the ILIAMO BBS earlier this year to provide computer communication for home satellite dealers and their customers and also for a Non-profit organization called V.O.C.A.L. which stands for Victims of Child Abuse Laws. In the State of Missouri alone, there are over 175 calls to the Toll Free 800 child abuse hotline that are false accusations. One out of 32 families in the State of Missouri were falsely accused of child abuse last year.

My problem is as well the same problem as other BBS sysops which is how much to charge to keep the BBS up and running. If you don't charge enough, you are donating time, and if you charge too much, they call somewhere else.

A few months ago, I received information on how to cut my own high phone bills from a company called BUSINESS NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS. Whereas, I have 8 phone lines installed here. Three are listed to Mark Twain Computer Mfg. Inc. and three are listed to La Grange Satellite Systems, and two for my personal lines.

Last year when the push was on by MCI, AT&T, and SPRINT to sign up, I wanted to see which was actually cheaper. I signed Mark Twain to MCI, La Grange Satellite to SPRINT, and my personal lines to AT&T. I quickly found out that AT&T was the highest, but MCI and SPRINT have their little ways to pad the bill too.

So when I received info from BNC, I signed up my residential lines to them first, just to see if they were 10% to 30% lower. My first bill showed me quickly that BNC was more than the 30% lower than BNC promised, and call for call, time for time, BNC was cheaper than MCI and SPRINT. So I signed up the other two services to BNC.

Now, not only do I get lower costs for my calls, I get FOUR FREE HOURS of long distance calls EVERY year for each service. Four for Mark Twain, Four for La Grange Satellite, and four for my residential. That's twelve hours a year of FREE long distant phone calls.

Later I received an offer to be able to offer BNC to others and make a commission off the new customers phone calls. I would get 5% of anyone who signed up because of me if I signed up for $30.00. OR, I would get 9% if I signed up for $495. What to do. So I did some calculations with my BBS callers and I did some researching with my callers.

I was charging $30.00 per year and at 226 callers that came to over $6500 per year. In my research, I found that the average BBS user has over $75 per month phone bills. So the calculations came up like this. $75 times 226 equals $16950 per month. If they all signed up, my commission at 5% would be $847.50 per month. But if I signed up at the $495 level, my commission would be 9% instead of 5%, and add up to $1525.00 per month. Either way, it all added up to more than the $6500.00 per year I was charging. I signed up for the $495 offer to get 9% instead of 5%.

So, I made an offer to my callers. If they signed up their long distant service to BNC, there would be no more fees to the BBS, Plus they would get lower long distant phone bills, PLUS, they would get FOUR HOURS OF LONG DISTANT CALLS "FREE". And, if they stayed on the BNC service they would get 5% of their TOTAL long distant phone bill credited on the 13th month, 10% of their second year the 25th month, and 15% of their third year the 37th month, and still get the FOUR FREE HOURS every year.

Guess what happened. 186 signed up to the program. My commissions on thos 186 averages around $1,200.00 per month. Then an unexpected thing happened. THey were contacted directly by BNC on my behalf and 27 of these callers had businesses which they signed up too. These businesses have an average phone bill of around $300 to $400. Whereas this just happened, I have to guess that this will increase the income around $700 to $900 per month. I now have more money to expand my BBS to attract more callers and now be able to hire a helper to keep it going.

I still haven't convinced the others to change over yet, but I will eventually. But, you know what the greatest thing about this is? This money will continue as long as these people make long distant calls, even if I quit running this BBS. Plus, everytime they tell someone else about BNC and these people sign up, I get a percentage. I am very sure this will get bigger each month.

What I am saying is this. First off, I have never gotten into a business by planning it. I have always got into any of my businesses by backing into them, and by seeing an opportunity to make a dollar. BUT, this will very soon make my reitrement.

I just thought that this would be a great article for you to write about. I am sure there are many other BBS operators, looking for a way to get and keep callers. What better way than to offer their callers wholesale long distant calling plus FOUR HOURS of FREE calls and rebates each year. A lot of my callers have left messages commenting on how their phone bills are lower.

Again, I want to thank you for the greatest BBS pubilication.

Sincerely,

Jerry Brandt.
ILIAMO Information Service
(314)655-2263
900 North 5th Street
La Grange, MO 63448

Jerry:

Your letter leaves me breathless, and for good or ill, I just had to share it with our readers. Amerika...what a country! I rather gather that from what you describe, we only have about 90 days before BNC provides all telephone service on the planet.

Actually, and quite seriously, I have been looking for one of the long distance carriers to get with the program at some point. There are 14 million BBS callers. A third of them claim their

favorite BBS is in a different area code from their own. They think they make an average of 62 calls per month and calls average about 40 minutes. How long before some LD carrier figures this out and comes out with the "BBS Program."

The revenues LD carriers get NOW from BBSing are enormous, and sooner or later, one of them will have to figure this out. It just can't be otherwise in a competitive environment. But I've been thinking this for several years now. I thought at one point MCI would do something, but haven't heard anything recently. I just don't think it appropriate to give them a free lesson in this. They have to figure it out themselves or they don't deserve the pile of gold. Maybe they have to "back into it" as well.

Keep after it Jerry. With that calculator of yours and that attitude, you've got to win sooner or later.

Jack Rickard

Dear Mr. Rickard,

Well I've just mailed in my subscription to what I feel is the best on-line magazine in print (or not) available today. I have probably read every available product and Boardwatch is definately the only one I read cover to cover, TWICE!

I'm the sysop of an "information service" (to coin the new BBS-Speak) in the Camarillo, California area called Beyond the REALM info Services, 805-987-5506 (plug, plug plug..). We are a LARGE, two-line system, if that isn't too much of a contradiction, (450+ users) running on VBBS/2 version 6.12! This is basically why I'm writing.

The ONLY bone I can pick with Boardwatch is that it hasn't completely covered what appears to be a VERY new, lucritive market for BBS sysops; that of the OS/2 multi-line BBS. Though, there are not many currently available, of the ones that are available, VBBS/2 seems to be the best! It's almost a direct port of the DOS version, which for a DOS BBS package is VERY easy to use, set-up, configure, administer, etc.

In my somewhat uneducated opinion, this software package deserves a review or write-up. If nothing less than to educate the readers on ALL packages for the OS/2 environment. For all intents and purposes, I believe OS/2 to be the best platform on which to run a multi-node system anyway. Its superior fault tolerance, multi-threaded, multi-tasking environment provides better and more reliable performance than ANY DOS counterpart.

Because VBBS is a shareware package, it is able to provide FidoNet, UUCP, VNet, WWIV and many other network systems without licensing hassles. The utilities available for it work with EITHER the OS/2 OR DOS versions and are plentiful. Anything from User editors, to on-line doors, to script development packages are readily available and usually FREE!

The author, Roland DeGraaf is responsive and an excellent programmer. Bugs and suggestions are implemented rather quickly and documentation is well written and available in hypertext formats. CD-rom is fully supported and multi-lines are available with built-in DigiBoard compatibility. The OS/2 version uses less than 4% CPU resource at high speed (w/o a DigiBoard) and multi-line performance is excellent. Please give my system a call if you wish to review it further.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Lee Ladisky, Sysop
Beyond the REALM **(805-987-5506)**.

Lee:

So that begs the question entirely. Really, which BBS software do you like the BEST?

Actually it does sound like a winner. So many bulletin boards...so little time. We'll try to have a look in a future issue.

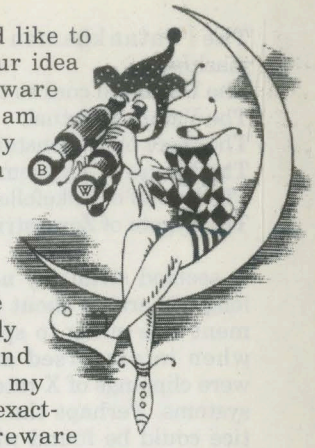
Jack Rickard

Hi Jack!

Just thought I'd drop you a note to address a few ideas that have been accumulating from the last several issues.

First, let me thank you for not editing the letters you receive from your subscribers. From a journalists' point of view, I was always miffed by my editor taking an inane "work of art" written by someone, correcting the spelling and punctuation, and making it seem almost plausible.

From someone who has written articles before, I have also been beside myself when a good-meaning editor has twisted my original meaning into something different.



Second, I would like to comment on your idea of what shareware authors are. I am presently employed by a multi-million dollar grocery wholesale business that started as a road-side stand selling only lettuce and bananas. In my opinion, that is exactly what shareware authors are trying to do. They do not have enough capital (I call it money), to start a full-time, full-blown product. And so, they set up they're lemonade stands on the street to see if they can make some money in this thing we call Free Enterprise.

Thirdly, I think that you've started something that you may have to consciously stop. When I first began reading your letters section, it seemed that your replies were something along the lines of "Well, I wasn't going to comment on that, but now that you've brought it up...." This would bring the inevitable replies, which would be commented on, which would be replied to, etc, etc. I've noticed that many newspapers and magazines simply print the readers' comments and make no rebuttal whatsoever. While this may be an extreme in the opposite direction, I do think brevity should be given priority here. (As one person said, "Sure I know where the middle is because I've passed by it so many times going from one extreme to the other").

And lastly, I'd like to share with you a few names which I think might be apropos to your service to the on-line community. You might be called:

The Aladdin of Analog Computing.
The Brontosaurus of the Bitnet.
The Caricature of Communications technology.
The Doctor of Demos.
The Evangalist of Electronics.
The Finger (albeit fickle) of Futureware.
The Gadfly of Gutenberg.
The Hippocrates of home computing.
The Ishtar of the Internet.
The 'Jack' of-all-trades.
The Kilobyte Klaus.
The Lamentor of landlines.
The Mentor of the Megabit.
The Nacelle of networking.
The Orca of on-line (apologies).
The Pundit of protocols.
The Rameses of Random Access Memory.
The Sultan of shareware.

The Tutankhamen of the Turin machine.
The Umbilical cord to the uninitiated.
The Vamp of Virtual.
The Were of Wolfenstein.
The Xerxes of Xmodem.
The Yanoff of Yokefellows.
The Zygote of Zoroastrianism (gulp).

It seemed strangely normal to have a lengthly article about how the government was going to spend our money, when interspersed among the texts were clippings of X-rated bulletin board systems. Perhaps the most poetic justice could be found where the author mentions giving away cable to many of the residents of harlem, right next to an ad for a BBS located in area code 516.

Phillip Senn
PSENN@delphi.com

Dear Phillip:

Strangely normal...normally strange.

I agree with your characterization of shareware, and find it very, very American in all respects. Where else can you make up something of your own on a PC in your basement, upload the result via telephone to someone else's computer, and within weeks distribute it to literally millions of people worldwide, and thereby start a company. It may be a little harder than that, but it is still doable. Something worth celebrating.

Perhaps I do go overboard with the replies. But it feels about right - As to my title, most just call me Jack. It's always worked.

Jack Rickard

Dear Editor:

Notice I didn't say "Jack" or start by complimenting you on what a wonderful superb fantastic mag you produce or how I read it cover-to-cover? <sarcasm mode off> Actually I have a "beef" with you - how come letters to the editor takes up so much room in the mag and you reply in such length. I'd prefer a much smaller space devoted to readers' rantings about smoking, Clinton, sysops explanations of why they prefer a specific hardware/software etc. Hey, stick to NEWS about boards! That's what we PAY for! We can read these whiners on the `nets anytime...without loosing space in our precious Boardwatch that could be put to more important use like ARTICLES! Hey, nowthere's-an idea! (no need to print this letter - no better yet - I REFUSE TO GIVE MY PERMISSION TO PRINT THIS WHINE - that's it! I hereby copyright this letter and refuse to give you permission to reproduce in part or whole ... that should do it ... but please consider what I said - it's the ONLY part of the magazine that sucks - and it sucks badly. I suggest you read the letters to the editor column in PC Mag for a nice "clean" look that I prefer.

Phew! That off my chest I'd like to give you some personal feedback on RIP, RoboBOARD/FX, FracTerm. The Rip terminal program is nice but incompatible with some hardware and the batch install is poor for novice users who don't realize how to install the program, and sometimes try to run the install .bat from the C: drive which will "bomb". Your grandmother could write a better batch file. I bought RoboBOARD/FX and must have gotten a "bad" copy - it simply would not work.

A fellow sysop's copy worked but I constantly got lost clusters which is a pain. Worse - I installed the free terminal program on a clients' NEC laptop and it TRASHED it! Rebooting produced "auxillary data line stuck low" followed by "EMM386 exception error - press ENTER to reboot" -repeatedly-. Sent computer back to dealer. Dead. I must admit that shook me up and lost me a customer! I've never seen that dataline error message ever before! Finally, Fracterm. I bought it on Jan 4th last year. Days later FRACTERM INC. went bankrupt. Actually they did a "midnight move" and now are unable to get VISA to trust them. Wonder why? <grin> They came back as Imagen Inc. and the dos version of their term program works well, if your video card is supported. And if you have lots of memory.

As for the Windows terminal program I have tested up to 1.1g and it's still only somewhat working. The print toolbar icon doesn't work at all and I get Page Fault and UAE's all the time on several different machines. One good UNDOCUMENTED feature (well good for ANSI affectionados) is that the capture icon will capture the incoming data stream without deleting the escapes - so sysops can "steal" the ANSI art on other boards!

Anyhow it's late and this is the first time I've ever written to a magazine so I'll sign off now with best wishes for the holidays and new year...may you enjoy peace and good health.

Barrie Brown, Sysop
Niagara On-Line **(905)734-8827**
MAXIMUS/FRACTERM
bbrown@sandcastle.cosc.brocku.ca

Barrie:

Sorry big guy, you lose again. Any letters sent to letters@boardwatch.com are OUR property and you have, by the act of sending it, allowed us to reprint it. Go for the lawyer thing if you like. Besides, I like whiners. If everyone sat around satisfied with everything, nobody would do anything. And it sounds like you've been very, very busy.

With regards to the letters section, I didn't really design it, it just rather grew. If you find PC Mag's letters section cleaner, you know where to find it. I determined early on that if anyone thought enough to write, I would take the time to respond. Actually, we have a pretty big segment of our readership now that claims to ONLY read the letters section, and it's become pretty popular. I agree it is unusual with regards to the way most magazines do it. For me that's part of the appeal.

It sounds like you have very bad luck with software. Actually, I'm a bit that way myself - it looks and sounds like a war is happening here when we install anything, and we're installing something all the time. But I haven't found any of the packages you mention quite as bad as you portray them. The whole genre of graphics software is a bit immature, (that's why we follow it here in Boardwatch with Jim Thompson's regular assault on graphics). There is a lot of demand for a graphic interface from a relatively small, but intense group who desperately want to put pictures online. I guess I think they'll get pieces of it right in the future. But for right now, our search for the graphic interface online continues.

Jack RIckard

To the Editors.

In your November issue, you had a list of Albertan BBS's. I wanted to browse some new BBS's I probably never heard of, so I picked up a copy. I was disappointed to find that the majority of the numbers were in Calgary and local area. Edmonton has some fine BBS's too! In the future, if you list BBS's for a certain province or state, try to list BBS's to all the major cities and areas, not just one.

Thanks for your time!

jwondga@valis.ampr.ab.ca (Smudge)

Smudge:

Ok, we'll try.

Jack Rickard

Jack,

In your response to Mark Smith's letter in the last issue you made an issue about morality concerning the Great Smoking Debate. How are automobiles and electricity related to the mortality rate for smokers (and those affected by second hand smoke). Obviously people are killed in alarming numbers because of traffic fatalities. People are also killed by electrocution as well but how can you compare smoking with these two things?

Of what benefit is smoking other than the physical and psychological sensation associated with the act of lighting up? Do cigarettes power your computer? Can they transport from home to office? do you get my point?

Anyone who uses cars or electricity assumes risks so that they may benefit from these necessities. You may be aware of the risks involved in smoking but don't compare those risks to other more necessary risks.

Christopher Walsh
Chris_Walsh@magic-bbs.corp.apple.com

Mr. Walsh:

And who get's to decide what is necessary? Are you implying that 25% of the adult population of North America took up smoking for no reason and no benefit? The world doesn't work that way. And no, necessary doesn't really play into it. The context was that "things that are dangerous should not be allowed" and my reply was that of course they should, and they are, and for good reason. Now you've tied that to "necessary," again, a fuzzy logical choice. Automobiles and electricity were both done without for nearly 4 billion years, and have been in use less than 150 years in both cases. Of course they are not necessary. Certainly they have benefits, as does smoking.

We all have to make these choices. In the case of cigarettes, we seem to have bred another little advocacy group of the feeble-minded who want to dictate everyone's choice. You'll never sell it here guy.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I am reading my second copy of your magazine. It's great! I am quite naive in communications. In the article about Phil Zimmerman, in Nov 93, you mentioned his program, PGP23A.ZIP & PGP23ASR.ZIP, but did not mention WHERE to obtain a copy of same. I tried your BBS. I also belong to it, but no luck. Was it a typo? Where can I obtain a copy of same.

Your letters column is the neatest section of the mag to me. The international activity is most interesting. As a physician, I find it most impressive so many people "travel" over the wire from all over the world.

Keep up the good work!

Thanks,
A. L. (Sonny) Shaw
72446,133@compuserve.com

Sonny:

Pleased you enjoy the publication. Actually, both files are indeed on our Boardwatch BBS at **(303)973-4222,** *and were there since before we did the article. Look in the INTERNET FILES file area. You can do a search of the file area by entering* ***L PGP*** *from the download command line.*

Jack Rickard

Dear Mr. Rickard,

As with all editors, you enjoy the benefit of always having the last word, an edge you use to great advantage in making a good percentage of your readers who dare to express opinions alien to your own appear to be total idiots. However, it is, in fact, your total irreverence for the ideas of others that makes your publication so entertaining! My own meager efforts to ellicit a virulent response met with greater success than I could have imagined.

You are truly extraordinary—one has to admire an arrogant man who not only openly acknowledges but also takes considerable pride in his arrogance! However, as much as I enjoy your cynicism on a wide range of topics, including public education, there is often a tendency among those who are forever expressing their opposition to virtually everything, to do so without offering viable alternatives. For instance, how would YOU use those billions of dollars being sucked from our national resources to deliver a public education system that actually works?—keeping in mind the realities of a political system that is now run by minorities and special interest groups, all of which demand that EVERYTHING cater to the absolute lowest common denominator, and none of whom has a clue how a "federal republic" is SUPPOSED to operate, much less that that is indeed the form of government our Founding Fathers laid out for this country. A "workable solution" (if such a thing exists for this particular dilemma!) would also have to accommodate the fact that we in the United States now live under a "judicial monarchy" where any corrections you MIGHT be able to herd through some political process would then face the inevitable "legal challenges" from one disgruntled delegation or another. In a country where everyone has RIGHTS to everything, but responsibility for nothing, what else could you expect?

As stated before, I fully agree with you that, contrary to what the NEA would have everyone believe, simply pouring more money on the problem is not a solution, but still disagree that parents, as you so strongly indicate, have NO responsibility whatsoever in the process (and I am not talking about "home education"). Having been beaten around the head and shoulders by your obviously vast and impeccable "parental experience" defense, I find it all the more puzzling how you can so cavalierly dismiss parental responsibilities in the educational process. No, I am not saying that it takes the "professional educators" off the hook entirely, yet how can they be expected to control, much less TEACH, classrooms full of individuals the majority of whom have had little expected of them at home in the way of respect, discipline, persistence, or other such elements that are essential in any meaningful educational context? Even if you eliminated all of the NEA's inane concepts of how students should be taught, and as you point out there are lots of those off-the-wall notions rattling around in the heads of those "professionals," you would still be faced with the fallow wasteland of indifferent, disrespectful "students" and a cadre of parents who expect those educators to fulfill not only the role of teachers, but also that of parents, without, of course, allowing them to utilize even a modicum of minor disciplinary measures. It is too much to expect of anyone, especially a group of "professionals" who mirror our society's current obsession with "self-esteem." Modern educational theory values "self-esteem" (a murky notion in itself) over substance. Indeed, it has perpetrated another feat of reality reversal, wherein we are supposed to believe that if you somehow instill "self-esteem" in a student, accomplishment will follow. Sure!

Then again, as you also so clearly pointed out, I am nothing more than a simpleton void of anything other than ignorant beliefs that you find so repugnant and difficult to eradicate—one more filthy ring around the collar of humanity. Your efforts to elucidate such bump-

kins as myself are at once provocative and colorfully entertaining. Of course, my self-esteem is now in a complete shambles and I have become dysfunctional as a consequence! Nevertheless, keep up the good work on all fronts!

Ignorantly yours,
Bill Sphar
billsphar@aol.com
P. S.
He who can, does;
He who can't, teaches;
He who can't teach, teaches others to teach. Amen!

Bill:

Well, mostly, you make it so EASY that it's hard to resist. You've got more on your mind than I have on my desk, and I'm sure it causes cerebral clutter. I can imagine the world is very confusing. It is not a pride of arrogance, rather, within certain communities, I want my arrogance widely and clearly displayed, lest someone mistake me for one of the locals when I'm just visiting/observing.

As to the solution challenge, like the offspring miss, you lose again. Here it is big guy.

As a rational and logical person, you have to sort the wheat from the pig droppings. Your previous faux pas about my ability or experience in siring children wasn't an information problem, it was a symptom of a PROCESS problem. If the horse has a broken leg and a bullet in the neck, reshoeing him, while probably a good idea, is not the first order of business. Similarly, your rant against advocacy groups, our monarchial judiciary, the poor discipline instilled by parents, and so forth may each or none have genuine merit. They're not the cause of the "problem" and are a little peripheral to the discussion I'm afraid.

How would I use all those BILLIONS of public dollars? The first thing I would do is give them back. The demise of education in this country, and the beginning of the grand doleout of federal dollars from a centralized national government to support education, coincide, coincidentally I'm sure, to a matter of days as best I can measure it. It could have happened the same afternoon. Education worked best when funded, administered, and controlled locally. No effort ever made by the federal government of the United States has resulted in any single solitary improvement in education that I can find. I might have missed one, but I doubt it.

My current position is to allow a few more years for the education community to try to wash its own linen. I rather suspect that success in education in this country will fall to private education, and we are headed rather rapidly then toward a "class" system that goes beyond the class room. But if tasked directly with resurrecting our current public, universal, and free system:

1. Dismiss everyone currently involved in education from the payroll. The good, the bad, and those standing around in the immediate vicinity. Not only would they be dismissed, but barred from future employment in education. Given that there are actually a number of teachers who are actually very good, this will be quite painful. Unfortunately, it isn't optional. This one not likely to be really a popular item with NEA.

2. Recruit teachers from the ranks of those retired and over the age of 65. The only exception would be those retired from the military at an earlier age. The idea here is to recruit a group of people who have at least SEEN the inside of a working, functional classroom that taught people something. They don't have to have taught, just SAT in a working classroom.

3. Cut the salaries of all teachers by 30%. Frankly, contrary to popular opinion, teachers are NOT underpaid. Quite the contrary. The system is riddled with gold diggers that could care less about education, and a great deal about their own salary, their next grant, etc. They clog the system and make it a very unpleasant environment for those who teach because they view it as a higher calling, and a valuable contribution to our children and our society. There has never been ANY indication that higher pay equates to higher performance in education, and numerous indications to the contrary.

4. Mandate Performance Based Education. This involves standardized tests, students taking them, and results - all anathema to our current education system that holds that children's self esteem is damaged by these performance measurements. The act of debating the current state of our educational system has been seriously hampered by a conscious and deliberate movement by the teaching profession and NEA to remove any means of measurement - under a horrendously dubious claim of sheltering students from damaging emotional trauma. This is shameless fraud. Students should compete with each other and against their own personal best. Not against "teacher expectations" or up to their "potential", but rather against the hard numbers and percentages that are used to measure life - as well as educational progress. Our students are not only leaving school uneducated, but they don't even know they ARE uneducated. Nobody told them, and they have nothing to measure themselves against.

5. Establish requirements for future educators. I rather gather you would not be opposed to requiring that the people we entrust to educate our children be at least able to graduate in the top third of their own class in the process of completing their own education? Would you like to guess where they statistically come from NOW???

6. Establish an Education Mission Statement - cast into law, clearly asserting that the "mission" of education is to teach - and removing any doubt as to whether our educational system should/ought/could serve as child care center, social services adjunct, child abuse watch, political indoctrination machine, religious defoliation mechanism, or anything else of a social or political nature. If students can perform math, science, and language arts, they win. If teachers want to promote the environment, a new liberal democrat social order, or double bagging of groceries, they lose. Every funding decision, curriculum proposal, etc to be measured against this mission statement.

On an advanced topic, not even broached as yet, I would like to see free education extended to our university system, and an alternative University "track" established with no vocational component at all. This would be a series of universities that were NOT devoted to preparing anyone for a job, but rather to provide what used to be termed a "University Education" to that 15% of the population always historically capable of being educated at the University level. This track would involve courses in art, history, science, mathematics, languages, literature, poetry, geography, and music. It would seek to extract the best of that developed over the past 10,000 years and present it in a four year forum without regard or prejudice to what the student might use it for later, whether or not they will attain a BMW motorcar, or how useful General Motors or Microsoft thought such education might be. There would be no business courses, no management courses, no law courses, no "useful" courses of any kind. And you would have to graduate in the top 20% of your high school class to be eligible to attend.

Finally, your self esteem must be based on Bill Sphar, not Jack Rickard. Similarly, our children's self esteem never did rest with the educational system.

Jack Rickard

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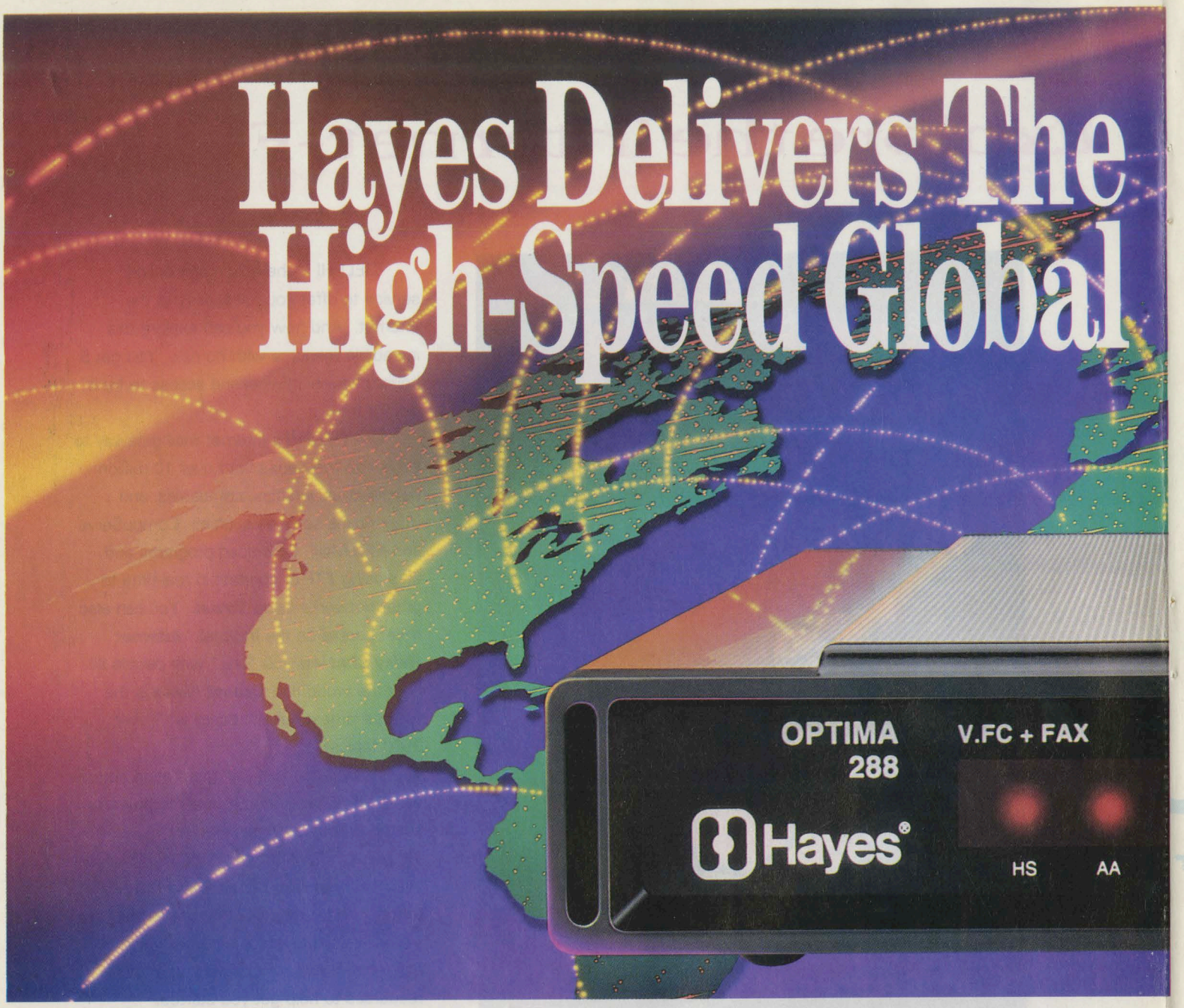

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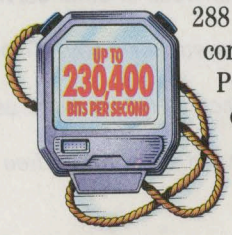

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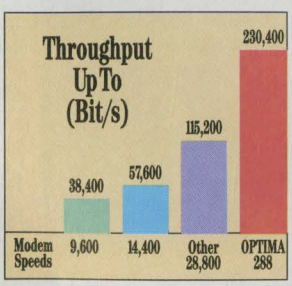

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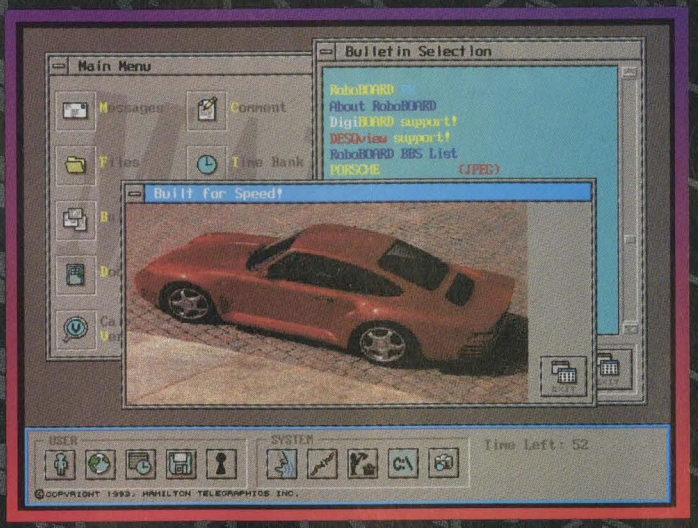

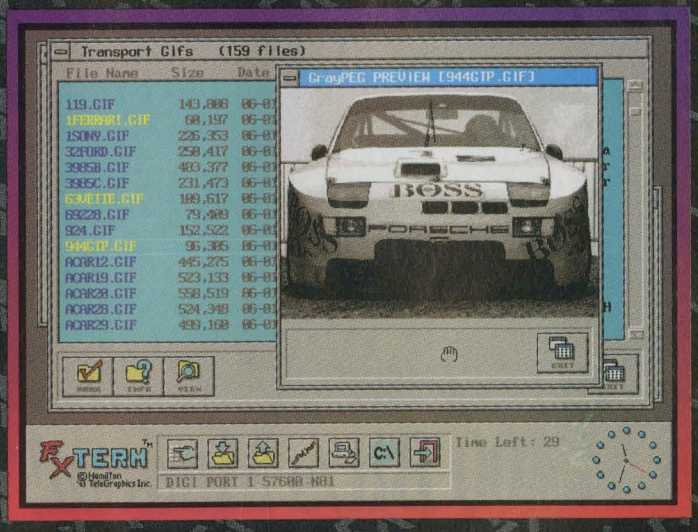

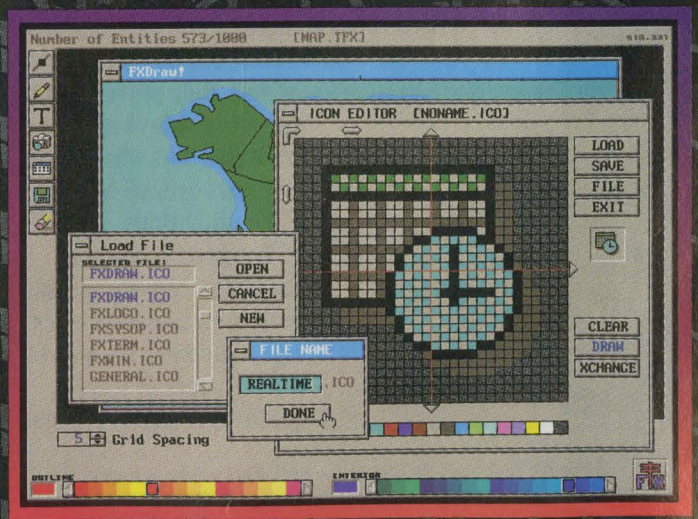

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Hello There Jack,

First of all, I want to thank you for printing my letter in your December issue. I just started my subscription this week and already I received this issue. Up here in Canada, I usually don't get the new issue on the stands until the middle or the end of the month.

I had written the first letter I sent you quite a bit before it was published, therefore I didn't know about the Ontario/Alberta BBS listing in the November issue. By the way, that was great! I have contacted the author of the list to get my system added to it. Now, if I could only figure out how to get my system added to YOUR national list (I wonder why you call it "National" when there are systems from Canada, Holland, and a few other nice places).

If you remember, in my last letter I asked about a Canadian UUCP HOST site, well to save you some long distance $$, and to save your Canadian callers some frustration if they want to be hooked up to the Internet, I will supply the name, number, and address of MY UUCP Provider. Thanks Jack for an excellent magazine, with top notch information, and thanks again for including us Canucks in your modem adventures.

Canadian UUCP Host, with local access to many Canadian cities:

UUNET Canada Inc.
1 Yonge St.
Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1J9

Telephone (416) 368-6621
info@uunet.ca

All of this from:
Dan Williams
The Adults At Play BBS (R)
(416) 237-1010
info@aaplay.org

Dan:

Well, the vagaries of the print publishing time zone I fear. In any event, I'm pleased you enjoyed our visit up north in that issue. Canada has actually always been very kind to Boardwatch, going back many years, a combination of wide-spread literacy and long cold nights I would guess.

Thanks for the note on your UUCP host. We'll add them to the list. It does come up often.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack, since I ran the IBM OS/2 2.1 SysOp offer in August at One BBSCON, I've had several of the packages returned due to incorrect addresses, people moving (yes, really!) and or not returned DHL's notices. Yet I feel these folks really wanted the OS/2 packages, but don't know how to contact me.

For those that still have the program guide, I'm listed under IBM Corporation with a phone number or they can send Internet mail to me at: **vicci@vnet.ibm.com**.

Please note this is only for those that had previously signed up for a package, not new orders and almost all of the returned packages are from outside the US.

So, if you signed up and haven't received your package, PLEASE contact me so we can get it to you.

Thanks!

Vicci Conway
IBM Corporation
Boca Raton, FL
vicci@vnet.ibm.com

PS - I'll be coordinating IBM's return again next year and look forward to seeing you there!

Vicci:

Thanks for the note, perhaps by publishing it in the letters section we can help you round up a few lost souls. By way of explanation to everyone else, IBM ran a show "special" at the ONE BBSCON this past August offering a copy of OS/2 Version 2.1 to any BBS operator that would put up an OS/2 support area on their BBS. They ran out of the 300 copies they brought the first day, and took names promising delivery to the rest.

We do hope the OS/2 promotion was valuable both to IBM and most especially to our attendees, and we look forward to your participation next year.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack Rickard,

Regarding the letter from Jack Linde in the December '93 issue:

Jack's singing the praises of NT forces me to respond; partially tongue in cheek, partially promoting OS/2, partially serious.

ANY BBS software that is multi-node capable (Remote Access is mentioned; I'll mention Maximus CBCS) and network/multi-machine dependant (PCBoard) can benefit from a pre-emptive multitasking operating system offered, such as Windows NT 3.1 (version 3.1 for a first release???) or IBM's OS/2 2.x. It will benefit even more from a port or rewrite to native 16 (or 32?) bit code for either the NT or OS/2 operating system.

The crux of the matter is that there is no existing NT code for a BBS (that I know of) and darn little for OS/2 2.x. I only know of Maximus/2 2.x CBCS, Multi-Net and now Magnum BBS listed in the December issue's BBS Software Vendors list (I learn yet another tidbit from Boardwatch Magazine, thanks Jack). Lets not forget about BinkleyTerm/2 2.5x for an OS/2 mailer.

I've also yet to hear anything about the communications capabilities of NT, though if it's anything like OS/2, will work superbly with native code.

I have been running a single line OS/2 based BBS using BinkleyTerm/2 and Maximus/2 CBCS for over a year and found it to be a flawless performer. Others can verify multi-node performance and/or networked performance.

Rumour has it that the next release of Maximus CBCS will not include a DOS version; OS/2 2.x only. How's that for commitment?

The TCP/IP 2.0 release that comes with OS/2 is now effectively bug-free and will allow that all important Internet connection with (relative) ease. The TCP/IP 1.x release was admittedly buggy to the point of being practically impossible to install, what with patches and CSD's galore coming from IBM.

I'm also aware of some patches and hacks to allow PCBoard to run under OS/2, but do not know of any success stories.

As for an OS/2 vs NT shootout; well, a favorite slogan of mine is, "OS/2; up and running, not up and coming."

You might also note that I've heard that virtually every Fidonet hub is now running under OS/2. Can someone verify this? George Peace?

The showing of IBM at ONE BBSCon, and their OS/2 giveaway has indeed opened a few eyes and the number of systems contemplating (or making) the move is mushrooming (at least in the Vancouver, BC area).

NT as a workstation OS is also highly suspect; far too many resources needed. As a network operating system, it's got something going for it. The SMP capabilities are also somewhat suspect, but that's another thesis.

But why wait for NT? OS/2 will do it for you NOW.

ISDN is a bad dream. It's been dangled like a carrot in front of us for too long. The telcos want to overcharge us to use it, and it will quickly die if someone doesn't step in to save it very soon. They can't even agree on a single ISDN standard amongst themselves, fer cryin' out loud!

I'm fearful ISDN is going to suffer the same fate as UNIX, which has been touted as 'The Operating System Of The Future' for the past ten years. It ain't gonna happen, much as I would like it to.

I'm afraid my crystal ball is most likely just as murky as yours is Jack. Neither one of us can predict what the future holds for us in the telecommunications world. I believe you are right when you suggest that BBS and the Internet will intertwine to the extent neither will come out intact. But that's just part of the picture.

It's a fast moving world we live in; an exciting one to be part of. I'll retire from my OS/2 soapbox, now. Keep up the fine work, Jack, et al.

John Cathie
Sysop, John's Bar & Grill
New Westminster, BC Canada
(604) 522-7578
John.Cathie@f738.n153.z1.ship.net

John:

Thanks. It IS after all the journey that is exciting. Once we arrive, I'm on to something else.

I agree OS/2 offers some promise. I guess I'm not sold on it as a multi-line platform for existing BBS software, but it certainly seems promising if someone would actually write or port their code to a 32-bit application.

That said, to my knowledge NONE of the FidoNet backbone echomail hubs run OS/2 at all at this date. I'm told, and have not confirmed, that the last one converted to multiline TBBS for FidoNet echomail duties within the past month, and that all backbone hubs run multiline TBBS now. I do know that George Peace does - apparently to some success.
However, I went to some extra effort to roll out the red carpet to IBM at last year's ONE BBSCON, and I think they followed up with an outstanding offer of OS/2 to attendees (I'm told over 300 OS/2 2.1 packages were basically given away at the show to BBS operators). It was, and is, my belief that a BBS package written for this package could easily do 8 lines per machine, even at high modem speeds, and be quite LANable, which would cure an economic flaw in the LANable BBS software we have looked at to date. The main barrier here is knowledge and familiarity, and the invitation to IBM and their distribution program at the show were designed to help alleviate that. I think in time it might. I would love to see one of the smaller contenders along the lines of Searchlight, Roboboard FX, or Remote Access carve a substantial niche for themselves with a port to an OS/2 operating system. Frankly, Maximus and Multi-Net, currently on the OS/2 platform widely, haven't done much for me, nor caused much of a stir in the online community. I understand VBBS is available in an OS/2 version and we plan on taking a closer look there. We did review the OS/2 Shareware BBS in last issue, and it was capable primarily in the efforts of the sysop in cataloging a lot of shareware, not in the BBS interface or capabilities.

Historically, we would have to bet Windows NT trounces OS/2 in the wider computer venue, because that's what Microsoft does. But OS/2 has clearly gained a fervent, if minority, following. And I see no reason why it could not win pretty big in the BBS community, and that is now a large enough community to be considered a win. We do intend more testing of OS/2 and their TCP/IP implementation soon here at Boardwatch. And we'll keep you apprised of anything interesting we find there.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I've found your magazine to be an endless source for useful information since I've subscribed, and always look forward to it.

I'd like to bring a product called UUPC from Kendra Electronic Wonderworks (KEW) to your attention. UUPC is the best uucp mail package I've ever run into and it comes in DOS, OS/2, Windoze[sp.], and Windoze NoT flavors.

I think it's very good for these reasons:

1. Very very good documentaion.
2. Great support.
3. Complete mail reader.
4. Ease of installation

KEW may be reached at:
Kendra Electronic Wonderworks
P.O. Box 132
Arlington MA 02174
(617)641-3452
info@kew.com

I would encourage anyone who needs a UUCICO or uucp mail system to ask them about UUPC. They don't have a direct uucp <——> BBS mail solution, but together with the Silver Xpress mail door I hope to have something working shortly.

Regards,

Erik Squires
Metagraphics Software Corporation
269 Mt. Hermon Rd., Ste. 104
Scotts Valley, CA 95066
erik@metagraphics.com
BBS: (408) 438-5368

Erik:

And so you have. Thanks for the note, it does sound interesting, and we'll try to contact them soonest.

Jack Rickard

Jack, I was reading your reply to Dave Holohan about what he goes through to get his copy of Boardwatch, and yesterday (when I got my copy via US Mail) brought with it the perfect answer. Condition. Last month I got my issue with the cover detatched, and this month the letter carrier left it on my front porch, by the screen door in a puddle of water. *sigh* I've found Boardwatch at Powell's Technical Bookstore, and at a tiny newsstand around the corner where I used to work, They were surprised when I asked for it. They thought it was some kind of ham radio magazine! I run a small one-line system here (shameless plug...The Overworked Dragon BBS **(503)256-8451**) and I find BW to be interesting, informative and well worth the subscription. Now if I could only get the letter carrier to walk up 3 steps and put the magazine in the mail box! Thank you for Boardwatch, it's nice to get something worthwhile for my money!

Katherine Stewart
Katherine.Stewart@f56.n105.z1.fidonet.org

Katherine:

Postal delivery is always a problem. Our biggest challenge there is getting it through a company mail room into a subscriber's hands. They tend to take a walk quite often. The November issue cover drama has been the subject of some

extraordinary meetings here at Boardwatch. We had a LOT of people report covers coming off. My initial reaction was that it was time to go to a heavier cover stock, or go to what is known as "perfect binding" for our magazine, and the implementation of this got a little heated actually.

What we found was that Boardwatch for nearly a year has been saddle stitched with three staples. For some reason, the November issue was shipped with TWO staples. For want of a nail, a shoe was lost.....

I can assure you there are some people who are very unhappy over the November cover.... in addition to our readers. And I think you can count on receiving all three of the staples you paid for in the future.

We'll be happy to replace any damaged November issues.

Jack Rickard

Hello Jack,

I am not really a magazine editor letter type but there a few things I would like to pass on to you.

1. I hadn't ever heard of Boardwatch until I received a free complimentary issue. About four minutes into the mag I phoned in for a subscription. Brilliant marketing move! If you can get a user list for Delphi and other services and send out a few freebies like you did to me you should increase your sales dramatically.

2. Speaking of Delphi, this is the best Internet source for me around. For twenty dollars a month I get all the regular stuff plus the Internet. Granted President Clinton can probably do more I-Net stuff than me but I can do plenty. FTP, WWW, Telnet, Gopher and lots more. I even FTP'd the "Yanoff List" (ftp csd4.csd.uwm.edu

login annonymous
cd pub
get inet.services.txt.

Some users will have to rename the file in Delphi to a more usable name for their OS before they can download and print it. This list enabled me to get my own account at Denver U.

3. In the December issue of Boardwatch Mr. Petrus van Breda mentioned on-line banking. I have been using the Checkfree service since June of 1992. For $9.95 a month I can send up to 20 electronic checks. The one time I was billed twice all I did was call Checkfree and forget about it. Both Delphi and Checkfree are local calls and only cost me a total of $29.95 per month. Thanks to these services I do not own a postage stamp and I use my remaining envelopes for grocery lists.

4. I do not work for either service, I am just so pleased with them that I like to recommend them to others.

Frank J. Santeramo
doink@delphi.com
fsantera@nyx.cs.du.edu

Dear Frank:

And we're glad to hear about them. Services done well are worthy of note. I think word is particularly getting around about Delphi. Full Internet access for a buck an hour is indeed a bargain, and I think they've moved pretty aggressively to play this chip against the other online services, to some success.

To tell you the truth, we've done a pretty miserable job of marketing Boardwatch all along. It started as a newsletter, and I pretty much took the attitude that if it is done well, the world will find it somehow. That's pretty naive, but it actually worked for the most part. We actually have done pretty well over time via word of mouth. But beginning this year, we will probably be so rash as to start a genuine direct mail marketing program like every other magazine on the planet just to see what happens.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack (and Jim Warren):

Jim Warren's article in Dec 93 issue about California's New Legislative Access was the best short guide to citizen legislative activism that I've ever seen. How strange and wonderful to find it in a magazine devoted to the BBS world! Perhaps you should change your subtitle to "Boardwatch: Access to Power." I sometimes read public policy magazines (Reason, Liberty, New Republic), and I've never seen a how-to article like this one. I urge you to re-sell it to one of these magazines. They need it.

I also want to tell you why people would rather go to a newsstand or bookstore to buy Boardwatch despite the inconvenience. I consider these stores to be my personal reference libraries. I like to keep up with what's new, and newsstands and bookstores have a better selection than public libraries (which provide good archival facilities). I'm a subscriber, but I still buy newsstand copies when I want to have one for the office, and I first found out about your magazine when I saw one in a computer bookstore. It is very important that you convince your distributor to keep copies available all month, which I'm sure you know already.

Dale Dellutri
ddellutri@aol.com

Dale:

One of the things I've pretty much insisted on from the beginning is that there is virtually nothing that "doesn't belong" in Boardwatch Magazine. If we find it interesting, we assume it is because it is interesting, and if interesting to us, of likely interest to our readers. This causes some strange things to appear in Boardwatch at times. But in my mind, Jim Warren's column is a pretty natural fit. As the online community emerges, and as these technologies mature, it is pretty natural that the largest single information collection entity on the planet, our government, should be taken to task when it doesn't get with the program.

Jim Warren is probably the most qualified person I know to untangle the often complex labyrinth of political intrigue and reasoning behind why they think our information isn't ours. What is most encouraging about his column and this topic, is that it takes so little to move mountains. Most of the chicanery going on depends absolutely on being accomplished in the shadows, out of public scrutiny, and on the assumption that no one will notice or care. A single column in Boardwatch, a few dozen letters to the right places (and he tends to know the right places), and the rats scurry for cover with a predictability that is actually a little saddening. Should even a small portion of our readership take his column as an action item each month, and these sweetheart deals where the citizenry gets cut out of the information age will cease quite utterly.

We look for big things from this column in the future.

Jack Rickard

Mr. Rickard,

We are Internet providers in Charlotte, NC. Please add us to your list of UUCP providers. Here is the information about our rates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at
VOICE: **(704) 338-4670**,
FAX: **(704) 338-4679, or tlt@fx.net**.
Terri Thomas
FXnet
7308-C East Independence Blvd
Suite 200
Charlotte NC 28227
Voice: **(704) 338-4670**
Fax: **(704) 338-4679**
info@fx.net

Low Usage UUCP
$30 per month plus $1 per hour
No installation

High Usage UUCP
$60 per month plus $0.50 per hour
No installation

Terri:

So added, and thank you for the information.

Jack Rickard

Hi Mr Rickard:

I am commenting on one of your letters from the December Issue. Where the person can't find Boardwatch Magazine on the newstands. Well where I live I find it at a store called "The Paper Store", and they expect me every month to show up there. I have read the other magazines that also try to explain BBS's,but they fall short with their writings.

They kind of lose prespective of the reader and they go off in different directions with articles. Now as to Boardwatch I can understand the writing in your magazine you explain it in english, so we are not bored with long winded technical explanations. Also your articles move by quickly you get us to the point not to put us to sleep. So keep it coming.

Now to another point about that letter in the Dec93 issue, about getting a subscription to buying it at the news stand. Some people don't have 36 or 59 dollars at once to get a subscriptions, sometimes we only have the $3.95 in our pockets once a month. Also some people like to skip a issue and buy the next one. (except for me I get the mag every month) I hope I helped you with your answer. Thanks for listening

Alan Rupa
internet address:
PXJT15A@PRODIGY.COM

Alan:

Thanks for writing. I'm pleased you find Boardwatch readable, and available however you get it.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack Rickard

I bought BOARDWATCH at the news stand for a few issues, then your logic struck me also - why pay more - a subscription is a great deal! And I don't have to gamble and maybe miss out on a single issue.

I had two reasons for writing you, well maybe three if you count the possibility of me seeing my name in your column. <G>

The first reason was to ask you if it was a copyright infrigement to compile BW's 100 BBS's LIST or the monthly BBS LIST in some of the different COM directory formats; ie Qmodem, ProComm, ProCom+, Telix, Telmate, & Text File, (as long as full credit was given) ZIP them and U/L them to BBS's. This isn't for profit - not even to meet ratio.

The second reason was just to see if I could sucessfully send a letter through the Internet E mail. Thanks for a great Mag.

P.S. How's the Little Rickard?
joel.burgess@indy.com

Joel:

Well, you didn't do badly with that one. First, you did get your name in our letters column. Secondly, your Internet mail made it just fine. Finally, the Boardwatch National list is copyrighted, and we would consider it an infringement. The Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice list is technically copyrighted, but our mission is the widest possible dissemination of these BBS numbers, which our READERS selected as the 100 they like the best. You may incorporate this listing in anything you like, wherever you like it.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

I am an enthusiatic reader of BW magazine. I want to let you know that we at IMSATT Corp. have started a new online educational service called HOMER - short for Home Education Resource Network. I hope you will give us some space. We have a registration and information BBS at **703-533-7566**. Once registered you can download our special access software for PC and access HOMER (which is on a mainframe) through Internet by telnet to 129.179.62.5. We can also be accessed through CompuServe network (host name is HOMER). HOMER offers accredited curriculum (K-College) as well as access to schools (Calvert and North Dakota) which offer distance education. Charges are $3 per hour plus connect time. I hope you will try it and let me know what you think.
Narsiman Kannan
President
nat_kannan/homer/cdc@odin.calr.umd.edu

Ok Nat, you got some space. Actually, I'm pretty interested in the home education movement, and I'm sure our readers will be as well.

Jack Rickard

Dear Mr. Rickard,

I just put the check for my renewal in the mail—only a few months late. Most folks would have stopped sending the magazine, but you've continued to send Boardwatch, and I wanted to say 'Thanks!' I didn't have the money to renew until now, but I would have missed your magazine. It's not that the information in Boardwatch isn't available elsewhere: your magazine does a great job of filtering the information so I can use it, and the occasional chuckle—and dare we say it, the use of the G-word—doesn't hurt, either. (Besides, you can't beat the dog with a rolled-up laptop...just kidding!)

I agree with you that BBS's are destined to be the on-ramp to the Internet for many folks in the near future. Folks who spend a lot of time writing shell scripts and hacking their .plan file too often forget that the average user doesn't want—often doesn't have time for—anything more complicated than 'what button do I push?' Most people want information so they can *use* it, not because they enjoy finding it, or collecting it, or even giving it to others. Only a minority of us are that insane; in the BBS world we're called sysops.
;-)

Rob Szarka
mrnoise@econs.umass.edu

Modem Watch

Special Reduced Prices for BBS Operators

VENDOR	MODEL	LIST	SYSOP	BBS	VOICE	FAX
AT&T Paradyne	Dataport 14.4/Fax	$329	$180	813-532-5254	813-530-8276	813-530-2398
ATI Technologies	9600 ETC-E	$499	$275	905-764-9404	905-882-2600	905-882-2620
Cardinal Technologies	9600V42 V.32	$349	$219	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Cardinal Technologies	14400V42 V.32bis	$449	$249	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Computer Peripherals	Viva 9624e V.32	$349	$249	805-499-9646	805-499-5751	805-498-8306
Digicom Systems	ScoutPlus V.32/Fax	$289	$168	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	MacScoutPlusV.32bis/Fax	$299	$178	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	Connection 96+ V.32bis	$199	$139	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	ScoutPlusTerbo V.32 Terbo/Fax	$329	$198	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Galaxy Networks	UFO V.32bis	$999	$299	No BBS	818-998-7851	818-998-1758
GVC Technologies	FM-9696/144V V.32bis	$689	$413	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
GVC Technologies	SM-96V V.32	$599	$329	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 288 V.FC + Fax	$579	$288	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Ultra 144 V.32bis	$999	$249	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 144+Fax	$519	$179	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	ISDN System Adapter	$1199	$450	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Image Communications	Twincomm 9600 V.32	$299	$279	No BBS	201-935-8880	201-935-6548
Intel Corporation	14.4EX V.32bis	$549	$269	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Intel Corporation	9600EX V.32	$599	$299	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA V.32	$869	$435	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA V.32bis	$899	$450	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXSA V.32bis	$549	$250	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXMT V.32bis	$299	$155	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Quadralink Technologies	1496V+	$360	$320	416-538-9999	416-538-0101	416-538-1355
Supra Corporation	SupraFax V.32bis	$399	$149	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Telebit Corporation	T3000 V.32bis	$949	$399	408-745-3861	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	WorldBlazer	$1049	$429	408-745-3861	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	QBlazer V.32bis	$549	$299	408-745-3861	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
U.S. Robotics	Courier DS V.32 terbo Fax	$1295	$399	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
U.S. Robotics	Courier V.32 terboFax	$695	$299	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
Ven-Tel	EC96 V.32	$699	$439	408-922-0988	408-436-7400	408-436-7451
ZyXEL	U-1496 +V.32bis	$749	$499	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E+V.32bis	$499	$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E V.32bis	$349	$249	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/Fax	$229	$119	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/Fax/Mac	$249	$130	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/24K/Fax	$299	$119	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/24K/Fax/Mac	$299	$130	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231

The above quoted prices are for purchase by qualified Sysops only. Public purchases are retail prices, and are not available through Boardwatch Magazine.

All PCBoard SysOps are winners, but we'd like to spotlight a few.

Boardwatch Magazine September 1993 Readers Choice Awards.

FIRST PLACE SOFTWARE CREATIONS

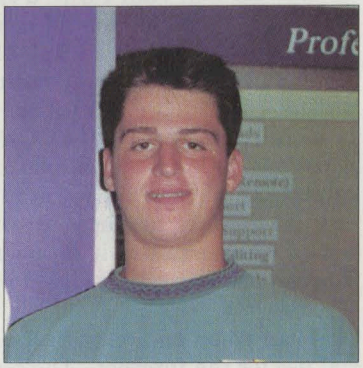
The top BBS in the Boardwatch 100 Readers' Choice Contest was Dan Linton's Software Creations BBS in Clinton, Massachusetts. The system started in December 1989 with one telephone line on a DTK XT, a 2400 pbs modem, and a 209 MB hard drive. By the following October, the system was up to 4 lines, using U.S. Robotics HST Dual Standard modems, a 386 MB hard drive, and a LANtastic network to tie the computers together under PCBoard BBS software. With Linton's background in hardware design, the system largely served as a technical information center for other local BBS operators.

In March 1991, Linton released his first shareware program, titled Picture Puzzle. The popularity of the system increased as it became known as the home system of Picture Puzzle. As more and more BBS operators and callers from around the country called to get the latest version of this software, Creations blossomed. Today, Software Creations runs PCBoard version 15.0, Novell 3.11 local area network, and other top services. Dan has developed a following around the country. Congratulations Dan. For those interested, you can reach Software Creations' BBS at 508-368-7139.

These are just a few of the many PCBOARD users in the top100 readers choice poll.

1993 Dvorak/Zoom Telecommunications Award

• DNIS Data Port Network Information System for Outstanding BBS Gateway To Multiple Information Services.



The DNIS bulletin board of Michael Simmons is an excellent example of a low-cost feature-rich community bulletin board system serving the resort community of Palm Springs, CA. Unique features of DNIS include extraordinary customization of high speed information ex-change services such as *United Press International,* stock market quotes, reports from major brokerage firms, *Business News, TechWire* and many others. By 1994 DNIS plans to expand its PCBoard to over 12 lines with 13 gigabytes. Congratulations Michael.

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STAGNANT PONDS AND BILL CLINTON

by John C. Dvorak

The Internet is growing by a hundred thousand to a million users every month depending on whose numbers you use. Have any of the computer magazines noticed this? Are the BBS operators following the trend? Does Compuserve realize that the Internet can put Compuserve (and Prodigy and whatever else shows up) out of business in a minute? Same

holds true for the e-mail providers such as MCI. Almost half the messages I receive over MCI are from Internet users. How long will I continue to pay to send these people messages while they send messages to me for free? Not much longer, that's how long. The Internet is a phenomenon, but it may be hiding more important trends.

The personal computer scene has degenerated over the last decade. The computer magazines (bless 'em, they pay my salary) have all followed the route of PC Magazine, orienting themselves towards the serious business computer user. This reader (95% males) works at some company and reads PC Magazine so he can know everything there is to know about what printer or computer to buy. There are about a million of these fellows. Other computer magazines are similarly interested in these people and most magazines have a strong bent towards selling new equipment into large corporations.

Some years ago I noticed that the hobbyist had largely abandoned the magazines and rarely went to local users groups. The most motivated of computer enthusiasts were soon heavily into the BBS scene which was largely ignored by the media-at-large. That is, unless some kiddie-porn nutball was arrested and confessed that he used e-mail on a BBS to make contact with an 11- year-old. Luckily that happened less than it could have happened. Since the overwhelming number of BBS systems are used by special interest groups and hobbyists their reputations remained good. Even the few porn-oriented boards that were busted were not overly publicized. When did you see the last article in the New York Times about porn BBS's?

While the core hobbyist community ended up on-line they stagnated there to some extent. The influence of the on-line BBS community on the rest of computing was negligible. Even the expense account on-line junkies who could spend company money for hours of on-line Compuserve time were little more than whispers in the breeze. I can tell you from experience that you can scream and shout all you want about something on-line and it has virtually no impact when compared to a one-line mention of something in PC Magazine or PC/Computing. Even Boardwatch is more influential than all the on-line put together. If you think about it why does Boardwatch even exist? Shouldn't it be on-line? No, because on-line is like a disposable diaper — forgotten as fast as possible. In fact, I'm stunned when people react to the lone on-line voice condemning or criticizing something. On-line vitriol (unless it's a prolonged flaming session that goes on for years) is forgotten so fast that it's amazing. Only broadcast news is as quickly lost in the ether. How soon the public forgets that which is put to them through electronic means.

So this crowd has formed a non-influential stagnant pond. Now comes the Internet with its promise of a virtual BBS, datawarehouse, free program depository, international CB, dating service, news gathering, etc., etc. Internet sounds like it does everything and, except for a pesky monthly charge, it's free! The Internet has become the new IBM PC — a spark to ignite a new generation of computer users worldwide. It's 1981 all over again as newcomers jump on the computing bandwagon. Internet is the ham radio of the 1990's. Only you don't have to learn morse code and you can use it for whatever you want. You can use the Internet for your company e-mail. You can use it to meet girls. You can use it to collect digital music.

I can go on and on with the potential use for the Internet. The first fallout from the Internet are terrible poorly written books about the Internet. There must be a hundred books and more coming as everyone tries to jump on the Internet bandwagon.

So what are the drawbacks to the Internet. Bandwidth for one. Messages also get lost no matter what they tell you. I've written about this problem numerous times and each time I mention it some jerk writes in and tells me he's been a computer user for two whole years and the Internet is the greatest thing in the world and it couldn't possibly lose a message because a friend told him so. Then a professor writes me and tells me I'm full of crap and that the Internet doesn't lose a message, but the site might have a problem. Duh, ok! The fact is the message got lost! So back to bandwidth. If you haven't noticed the Internet craze really got into gear once Clinton and Gore began to blather on about the digital highway. Next thing you know the Internet IS the digital highway. The first thing you learn in Political Science 1 at the University is that an unlisted power of the President is to set the moral tone for the nation. A side dish to this moral-tone setting is that if the President reads a certain author (remember Reagan and Louis L'Amour?) or eats a certain jelly bean or has an odd cat or a funky dog or

whatever, then the public goes gah-gah over that "object." With Clinton-Gore the digital highway is the thing that caught the public's imagination. Voila! The Internet grows like topsey.

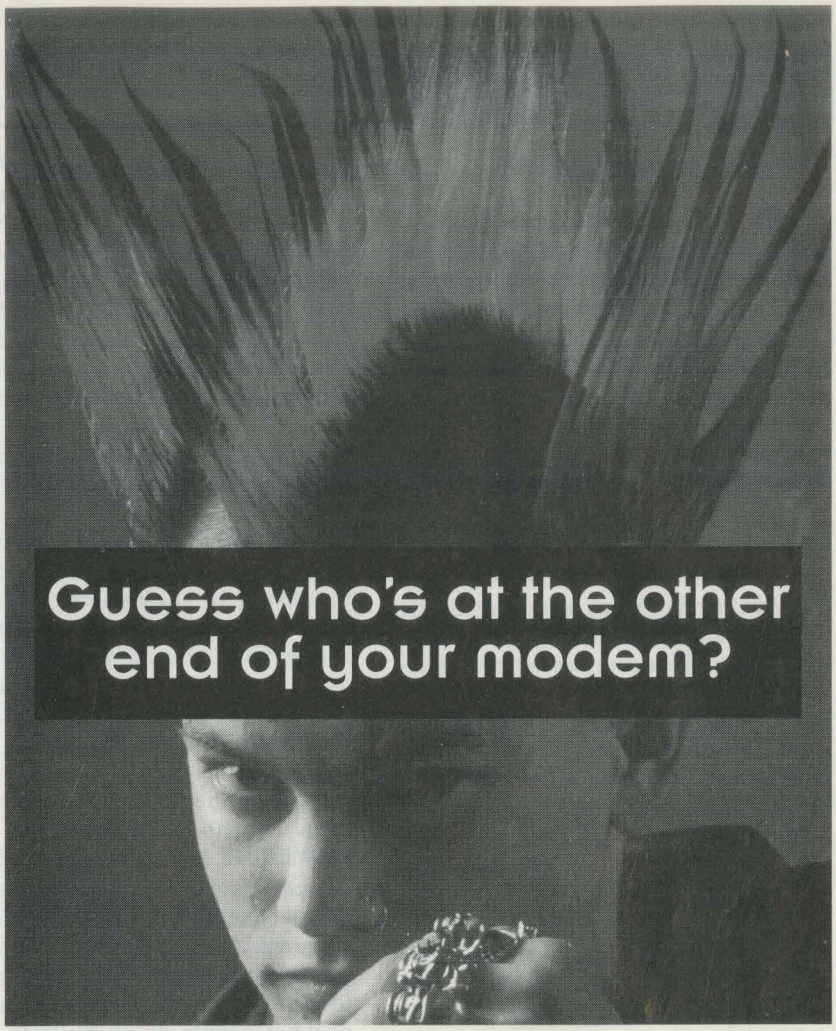
I suppose it's time to get to the point of this ramble. We know that Clinton has triggered this new boom in personal computer use while the old-timers have found comfy niches. We assume (and I think with some justification) that the Internet would not have rocketed without all this digital highway nonsense. And, finally, the Internet, it's safe to assume, is going to run out of bandwidth any minute.

Now what exactly is missing from this picture? This out-of- control mess is viewed by us all as some weird curiosity. We stand around watching it. We might watch the whole country go to on-line hell. It's hard to say. Much of the BBS community already feels out of touch. Many on-line users are turning into voyeurs or becoming dissociated from their on-line life. Split personalities.

All the while everyone is in a daze and we ignore the already designed data superhighway called ISDN. A preoccupation with the Internet has again let the dopey phone companies off the hook regarding full coast-to-coast implementation of ISDN. This technology should have been coast-to-coast five years ago. By now we should be implementing wide band ISDN. We can have data services and video service like nothing we can imagine. But where is it? The country is distracted by the fake superhighway buzz-term and now the Internet mania. Who cares? We need ISDN. If President Clinton or Al Gore would just publicly berate the phone companies and demand ISDN for the nation, we'd have it in a month.

Please cut this column out. Circle the last paragraph about ISDN and send it to your Congressman and Senators. The digital superhighway is here. It should be fully installed and the phone tariffs should not be changed. All we're doing is modernizing with ISDN so let's not muck with the rates. But let's get this system going.

As for the Internet we can call it over the ISDN line.



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TELEBITS

RUMORS AND FACTOIDS

The response to the introduction of V.FC as a real product has been pretty exciting. **Zoom** is shipping a 24 kbps modem NOW that is available on the shelf in some stores for less than $200. **Boca Research** has announced a $395 24 kbps V.FC model. **Practical Peripherals** and **GVC** have products in beta testing. The V.32terbo camp has pretty much folded. **U.S. Robotics** and **ZyXEL**, both proponents of V.32terbo, have essentially bowed to the inevitable and announced intentions to support the V.FC mode. What is most dramatic is the response of AT&T. The two main developers of modem silicon are Rockwell and AT&T. Rockwell actually does the V.FC chipsets while AT&T produces a modem chipset with the V.32terbo technology. Rumor has it that the modem manufacturing arm in AT&T, **AT&T Paradyne**, is going to announce support for V.FC as well. The question is, using who's chipset?

U.S. Robotics apparently took the Hayes move as a wake up call. The company had virtually become unreachable with a voice mail phone system from hell, incredible delay times in shipment of modems to BBS operators, and a generally "we're very busy, and VERY successful" attitude. They have done pretty well recently with sales of their Sportster model in retail stores at very attractive prices. But within days of the Hayes announcement, the company lowered prices on modems, announced support for V.FC class, and actually launched a market survey program to call OUT to BBS system operators to ask them what they thought of U.S. Robotics, and what they thought U.S. Robotics could do to improve that perception. Don't count this company out yet. Their relationship with BBS operators is a long one, and whatever internal problems they may have had recently, it would be very unlikely they would give up this very visible market segment without a fight.

Increasing rumors of trouble on the Internet. The problem is a continuing confusion between connectivity and capacity. Several host providers are struggling heroically to continue services in the face of rising demand.

Some aren't doing so well. **Colorado Supernet** became virtually unreachable during October/November, shut off USENET news to UUCP accounts for several weeks, and has been taking a lot of heat lately from their client base. Many hosts have been throwing hardware at the problem in a scramble to stay ahead of demand. And some sites are simply closing. Our story last month about FTP apparently detonated on impact with decwrl closing their e-mail ftp service - we don't if this is permanent or temporary. Some anecdotal evidence is mounting to support the claim that Internet mail sometimes get lost - somewhere, somehow, someway. In any event, evidence is mounting that the Internet enjoys no mystical immunity to the problems of growth.

The online community continues to gain in the mainstream. ABC's **PRIMETIME LIVE** program on December 8th featured a healthy segment about electronic bulletin boards. The story was actually pretty artfully done - avoiding the easy shot at sex online in favor of a fairly in depth examination of what people do on bulletin boards and why they do it. Featured was Wayne Gregori's **SFNET** in San Francisco, Dan Linton's **Software Creations BBS**, and Michael Allen's **Odyssey BBS**, as well as **America Online**.

Meanwhile, the BBS arena has also attracted the attention of the financial community. Investment bankers Cruttenden & Company have contacted most of the BBS software vendors about the possibility of handling an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to go public while venture capitalists seem to be popping up everywhere - down to smallish bulletin boards. All signs of the emerging industry in PC communications software and services.

What U.S. company sports the highest number of millionaire employees? You guessed it. Microsoft. Over 2000 Microsoft employees are technically millionaires, primarily based on their holdings of company stock.

MCCAW COMMUNICATIONS FIRST TO OFFER CELLULAR PACKET DATA

McCaw Communications, Inc., became the first cellular telephone company to introduce **Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD)**, in Las Vegas Nevada in November. CDPD provides a 19,200 bit per second data connection over cellular channels using the "dead space" between voice cellular operations. McCaw's AirData CDPD service will also see light in Dallas, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle before the end of January.

More than a dozen other cellular carriers have announced varying levels of support for the cellular packet service and it is estimated that 74% of the population will be within reach of CDPD by the end of 1994 - a fairly rapid deployment. Talk of a CDPD "Internet" is already under way.

The initial introduction is primarily aimed at corporate use - **American Airlines SABRE Technology Group** is an early customer. But unlike existing wireless data services such as RAM **Mobile Data, Inc.** and **ARDIS Company**, McCaw claims they will avoid per packet charges and most likely charge a flat monthly rate to consumers in the $34 to $45 range. Other carriers have expressed interest in air-time charges like regular voice cellular service, although probably at a lower per minute rate.

Security of wireless data transmissions is an issue. McCaw is deploying a kind of public-key encryption technology on the RF portion of the transmission. It will be transparent to the user but requires that the CDPD radio modem include public-key software. Encryption/decryption of packets will in the data routers on the carrier end, and inside the modem on the user end. This will ostensibly make wireless data actually more secure than land line systems.

McCaw also indicated that the 19.2 kbps rate may not be the ceiling, noting that 64 kbps data rates are within technical feasibility.

Motorola Inc. makes most of the carrier's base station equipment for the network, also plans to introduce CDPD radio modems. A working specification for CDPD devices was finalized in August 1993. A combination cellular voice phone and CDPD modem is currently under test and scheduled for introduction early this year. Later plans include a PCMCIA Type II card modem that would plug into any laptop with a PCMCIA II slot. IBM and Cirrus Logic are also reported to be working on CDPD modems.

We think CDPD will ultimately offer the widest coverage at the least price for wireless data communications, and expect it to handle an increasing amount of the data traffic in the future.

eSOFT ANNOUNCES HIGH SPEED SUPPORT FOR HAYES 28,800 V.FC MODEMS

eSoft, Inc announced it is making available a free update to its TBBS bulletin board system software to support Hayes' new V.FC based Optima 288 modem product. The update, which adds support for 57,600 bps and 115,200 bps interface rates, allows TBBS based bulletin boards to provide the high data transfer rates possible with the new modems.

"TBBS is the only product in existence which can run up to 64 of these modems on a single computer," said Phil Becker, eSoft's president. "Not UNIX, not OS/2, not any other BBS product can support more than a few of these modems on a single machine without serious performance reduction. TBBS can support up to 64 of them, all with less than 10% degradation in performance, and all on a single DOS-based PC."

eSoft worked closely with Hayes, who uses TBBS for their customer support and demonstration BBS **(1-800-US HAYES** or **(404)HIMODEM)**, on testing the new modems. "The transfer rates possible with the new Hayes Optima 288 modems are incredible - as much as double the throughput possible with previous modems," said Becker.

eSoft is the oldest producer of commercial BBS software, introduced 12 years ago on the TRS-80 computer. Its current TBBS product runs up to 64 high speed lines on a single DOS-based PC without the need for LANs or multitaskers. eSoft currently claims 25% of the BBS software market. The update to support the Hayes Optima 288 is available to registered users via the eSoft product support BBS at **(303)699-8222**. **eSoft, Inc.**, 15,200 E. Girard Ave., Suite 3000, Aurora, CO 80014; **(303)699-6565** voice.

EVENT HORIZONS AND ADVANCED SYSTEMS RESEARCH MERGER

After several months of negotiation following a meeting at ONE BBSCON '93, **Event Horizons** and **Advanced Systems Research, Inc.** have announced the merger of their two companies, and the move of ASR to Event Horizon's Lake Oswego, Oregon office site.

Event Horizons is a 64-line bulletin board system specializing in graphic images, and most widely known as the target of a copyright infringement lawsuit several years ago by Playboy Magazine. Headed by Jim Maxey, the system may be the single most profitable PC-based BBS in the country with estimated annual revenues of some $3.2 million. Event Horizons first went online in 1983 with a focus on space and astronomy images.

Advanced Systems Research, headed by Alan Mcnamee, previously located in Reno, Nevada, operated a 48 line BBS primarily devoted to software product development, support, and beta test for third party utilities for eSoft's TBBS bulletin board software.

As part of the change, ASR is moving to the same office building in downtown Lake Oswego. The combined forces of the two companies brings the in-house staff to 21, with an additional stable of 22 programmers located around the country who contribute to the software product line. This may well comprise the largest BBS third party software development house in the world. Both **ASR** and **Event Horizon** can be reached at 311 Avenue B, Lake Oswego, OR 97034. The bulletin boards will remain separate with ASR's contact phones as **(503)699-8227** voice; **(503)699-8229** fax; **(503)699-8200** BBS. Event Horizons BBS remains available at **(503)697-5100** and **800 GO MODEM** as well as on the CompuServe X.25 network with host name EVENT.

PCMCIA MODEM PRICES DROP

A flurry of new product announcements and price cuts for the PCMCIA style modems happened toward the end of the '93 year, making PCMCIA modems a more attractive option for laptop toting road warriors.

The **Personal Computer Mermory Card International Association (PCMCIA)** bus standard has caught on in a pretty big way - particularly among laptop computers. These slots allow the addition of memory, ethernet connectors, modems, or other peripherals built in a tiny credit card size package that plugs into the slot via a 68-pin connector. The market for PCMCIA fax/data modems is expected to grow to nearly 3.4 million units by 1995. The initial pricing of 14.4kbps modems for the slots was not encouraging however with most models appearing in the $600 to $700 range.

But that appears to be changing. **Supra Corporation** has announced the SupraCOMcard 144, a combination 14.4 kbps modem and fax card at a more inspiring price of $349. Based on the Rockwell 144ACL chipset, the new modem is designed for use in Type II and Type III PCMCIA slots and features a five year warranty. **Supra Corporation**, 7101 Supra Drive SW, Albany, OR 97321; **(503)967-2400** voice; **(503)967-2401** fax; **(503)967-2444** BBS.

Boca Research has also announced a new 14.4 kbps PCMCIA modem titled the M144PA at $369. It is quite similar to the Supra offering with both data and fax at 14.4 kbps, compatibility with all of the by now familiar flurry of standards, and can send and receive fax or data calls. The company has also announced a PCMCIA form 10BASE-T ethernet adapter allowing users to connect their laptops to a 10BASE-T ethernet LAN. 10BASE-T is a twisted pair wiring standard that uses modular RJ-45 telephone jacks to make connections rather than the more common ether-

net coaxial cable with BNC connectors. Titled the BEN1PA, the credit card sized adapter features the expected RJ-45 connector, a five year warranty, and a $229 price tag. It comes with a whole raft of software drivers fro Novell Netware, Microsoft LAN Manager, Windows for Workgroups, as well as most other popular NDIS applications. Boca Research recently acquired the assets and operations of The Complete PC. **Boca Research, Inc.**, 6413 Congress Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33487; **(407)997-6227** voice; **(407)997-0918** fax.

Practical Peripherals has an existing product, the PractiCARD 144 PCMCIA modem, and announced in December a 22% price cut from $449 to $349. While the Supra and Boca products claim a port speed between the computer and modem of 57,600 bps, the PractiCARD claimes speeds of up to 115,200 bps, and draws less than 20 milliwatts of laptop battery power in its software controlled "sleep" mode. **Practical Peripherals**, 375 Conejo Ridge, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361; **(805)497-4774** voice; **(805)374-7272** fax; **(805)496-4445** BBS.

Finally, **Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.**, announced a $100 price decrease in their Hayes Smartmodem OPTIMA 14400 FAX144 for PCMCIA bringing it to $399. The OPTIMA model weighs just 2.5 ounces and also plugs into a Type II PCMCIA slot. The Hayes model is somewhat unusual in that it also supports synchronous communications using their AutoSync software. This allows users to also connect to mini- and mainframe computers through 3270 and 5250 remote terminal emulation from a notebook computer. **Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.**, P.O. Box 105203, Atlanta, GA 30348; **(404)840-9200** voice; **(404)441-1213** fax; **(404)HIMODEM** BBS.

U.S. ROBOTICS ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR V.FC

U.S. Robotics, Inc., announced an agreement with Rockwell International Corporation to incorporate Rockwell's V.Fast Class (V.FC) technology in selected U.S. Robotics products.

The company had offered the V.32terbo technology for 19.2 kbps connections as an interim technology until

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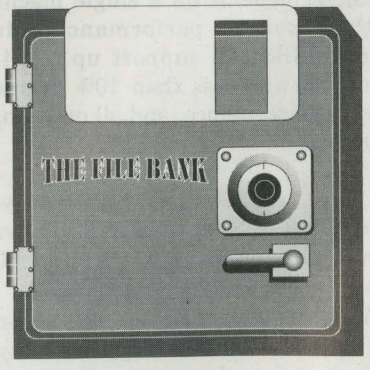

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) formalized the V.34 standard. But the wave of V.FC announcements in November proved compelling, and USR acknowledged they would incorporate V.FC in some models of their modem product line.

"It is important to help our customers increase throughput and maintain compatibility as the final pieces of the ITU-T V.34 standard are put in place," sand Jonathan Zakin, U.S. Robotics executive vice president of sales and marketing. "Our customers rely on products that provide the widest range of connectivity options and highest speeds available. Our support of non-ITU-T technologies such as V.FC assures that our products meet these needs."

Still hoping to salvage something from the V.32terbo/V.FC fray, U.S. Robotics has been quick to point out that V.34 is coming. Dick Brandt, Chairman, Working Party 1 of Study Group 14 of ITU is quoted as saying the final draft of the standard will be submitted in February, and formal adoption is expected in June of 1994. The standard has jokingly been referred to on the committee as V.last, acknowledging the limitations of analog telephone bandwidth. But suggestions of a V.34bis standard taking modem speeds to 32 kbps or even higher have already been discussed loosely.

U.S. Robotics also announced record sales and earnings for the quarter ended October 31, 1993 with revenues of $69.4 million, an impressive 123% over the $31.1 million for the same quarter of the previous year. Earnings for the quarter increased 81% to $5.5 million. The dramatic jump was attributed to strong sales of the Sportster line in the retail channel and substantial gains in Wide Area Network systems products. Earnings per share for the quarter were $0.44 compared to $0.28 for the same quarter of the previous year. Annual revenues were $189.2 million, up 68% over the 1992 figure of $112.4 million. Net income climbed 57% to $17 million. The company currently has 12,143,000 shares outstanding trading on NASDAQ under the symbol USRX.

COMPUSERVE - GRAPHICS IN THE SHOPPING AREA AND A LOT OF NEWS ONLINE

CompuServe announced with some fanfare the introduction of graphics in their shopping mall area. The service claims to be the first online service to offer high resolution graphics as a complement to home shopping product descriptions, an intriguing, if dubious claim.

The program basically allows merchants to include images in CompuServe's Graphics Interchange Format (.GIF) that depict products offered for sale. The .GIF image can be displayed online if your terminal program supports display of downloaded .GIF images (Qmodem and Procomm do) and works very well with CompuServe's own Information Manager for Windows.

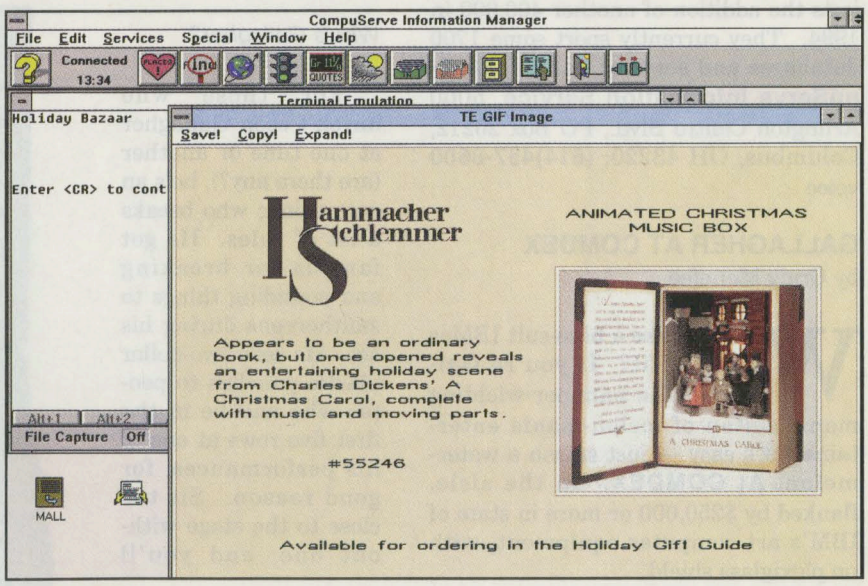
The service claims over a third of the merchants have chosen to take advantage of the new feature, but we found a scant handful, and some specific merchants such as Buick and Sears were announced but simply didn't have any images online.

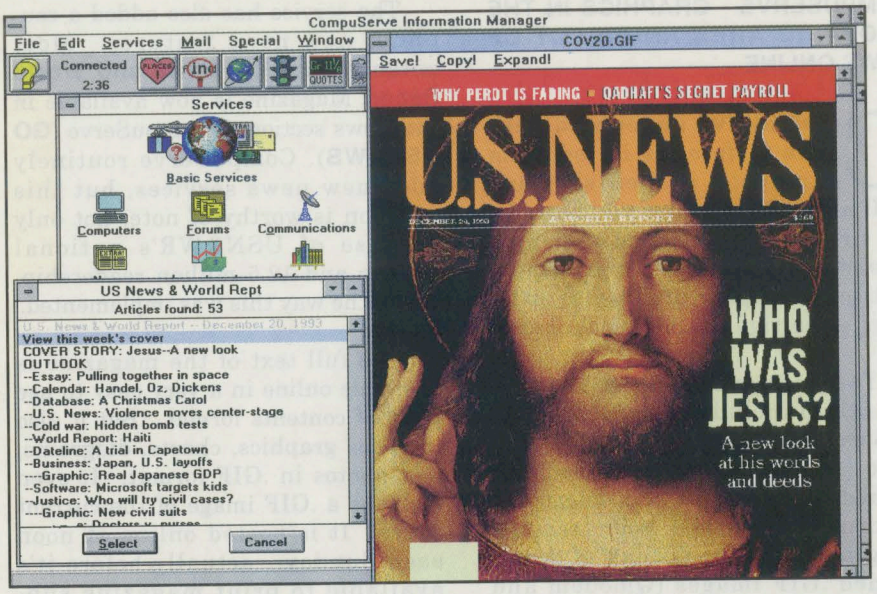
But while the percentage of products offered with graphics in the mall is currently very small, the concept has a lot of merit. For callers, it is quite easy to use, and it does very much alter the shopping mood when you can actually view the product. The images are actually pretty clear, and even at 9600 bps, the images rarely take more than 30 seconds or so to download. The overall effect is powerful.

The service has also added a couple of new news features. Most notably, the **U.S. News and World Report** Magazine is now available in the News section of CompuServe (**GO USNEWS**). CompuServe routinely adds new news services, but this addition is worthy of note, not only because of USN&WR's national stature and 12.5 million readership, but in the way this was implemented.

The full text of the magazine is available online in a very easy to use table of contents format. But it also includes graphics, charts, diagrams, and photos in .GIF format. It even includes a .GIF image of the current cover. It is posted online at noon each Sunday - actually before it's available to print magazine subscribers or on the newsstand. It's included as part of CompuServe's BASIC service at no additional charge to callers. Forums are included where callers can discuss stories not only with each other, but with the magazine's editors and writers. A file area includes expanded information such as government speeches and reports covered in the issue, contact information for organizations cited in articles, the annual American's Best Colleges guide, the Money Guide, the Guide to Best Mutual Funds, and other popular USN&WR annual features. And finally, a searchable database of more than 12,000 USN&WR articles dating back to 1986. And of course, you can enter a subscription online.

In short, this is the first example we've seen of a national printed magazine actually EFFECTIVELY putting





their product online in a way that takes advantage of the medium to any significant degree. And from what we saw, they really did do it right.

But further, we were struck by how the USN&WR addition dressed up CompuServe. Text online is too often a wasteland of just simply bad writing. We found USN&WR a very good online read, probably partly due to the kind of short, punchy articles that make up most of the magazine in print form, and partly due to just good editorial matter. We think this will be one of the first really big successes in the marriage of printed magazines to the online medium, and the harbinger of more to come. US News readers can obtain free software to access the service by calling **1-800-510-4247**.

CompuServe is currently claiming some 1.5 million subscribers and projects the addition of another 400,000 in 1994. They currently sport some 1700 databases and services online. **CompuServe Information Service**, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., PO Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220; **(614)457-8600** voice

GALLAGHER AT COMDEX

by Craig Menefee

Want to make a blue-suit IBMer throw a fit? If you're **Gallagher**, the hammer-wielding manic sultan of melon-mania entertainer, it's easy — just smash a watermelon. At **COMDEX**. In the aisle, flanked by $250,000 or more in state of IBM's art computer equipment, with no plexiglass shield.

It was one of the high moments at COMDEX '93. IBM had engaged Gallagher to do five shows per day at their booth at a cost reportedly in excess of $150,000. Aware of the splat-ability of Gallagher's kitchenware antics, they provided a clear plexiglass "cage" to take the brunt of the liquid punishment that's an inevitability at a Gallagher performance, but the crowd started egging the performer to come out of his glass house . . . so he did. The blue suits had red faces and their roars of rage briefly drowned out Gallagher's patented, rapid-fire one-liner delivery.

You might say they were a mite upset.

No damage was reported, so the entertainment of watching a seasoned performer get IBM's goat was well worth it.

Who's Gallagher?

For those who haven't seen Gallagher at one time or another (are there any?), he's an entertainer who breaks a lot of rules. He got famous for breaking and pounding things to smithereens during his act. He sells two-dollar plastic ponchos to people who will be in the first five rows at one of his performances, for good reason. Sit too close to the stage without one, and you'll probably leave with stains of watermelons, peaches, exploding water balloons, and whatever else came to Gallagher's mind during the performance. He's been known to hose down the audience with a fire hose. And hecklers are grist for his good-humored mill.

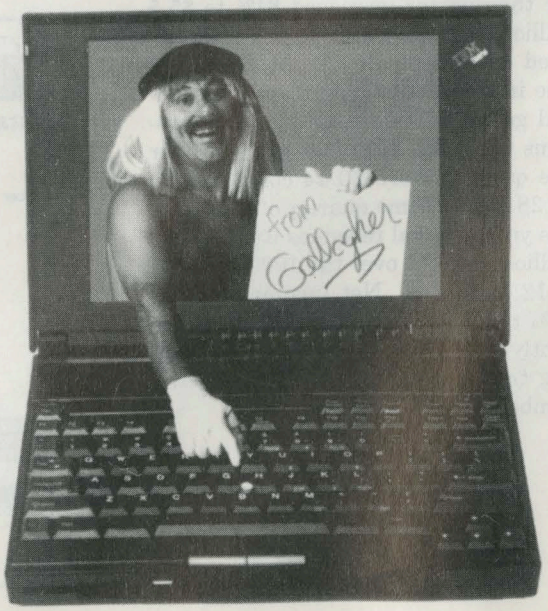
Each performance is different; once he gets going, he's a one-man theme park. If IBM didn't want something nutty, they should have engaged Andy Williams, not Gallagher.

IBM hasn't announced whether it will hire Gallagher again, but it's not likely to bother the performer much one way or the other. IBM may have hired him, but it's the audience he was playing to, and the audience wanted him out where a hammered watermelon would distribute itself as God intended, all over the audience, the aisle, the blue suits — and the equipment.

Gallagher also has some of the best one liners in the business. If your knees bent the other way, what would chairs look like? Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets? (All the people that would complain about that joke are dead, he remarks.) Why would you put a wet drainy thing like your nose upside down over your mouth?

He finds humor in everything — our language, our bodies, the way we do things. Why do men have nipples and no breasts? Why do some hitchhikers wear camouflaged clothing?

Gallagher's also famous for his props, which include giant trampoline



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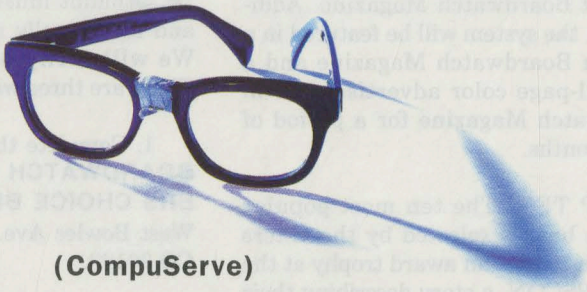

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couches and invisible diving elephants. But it's his take off on the Veg-o-matic food processor, in which he uses a sledgehammer on watermelons and anything else at hand, that has earned him his cult following.

No wonder he has a cult — anyone who can make a pie in the face seem like transcendent humor deserves such a following. If he were a religious nut, no doubt he'd be dangerous. But he's caught on in the mainstream, too. His shows now average 2,000 rain coat clad fans who gladly pay $20 or so to see him work. And work he does. According to Ruth Ann Proper, who has been working with him over a decade, "Gallagher puts everything he has into each of his shows." During a two hour interview in Las Vegas, Gallagher told me performing just happens to be his "latest job" and that he is nothing more than a "hard worker." Considering what he does during his performances and the involved preparation process it takes to pull each one off, his modest term "hard worker" is most definitely an understatement. His 20 minute Sledge-o-matic routine alone would exhaust a decathlon athlete.

Gallagher is recognized everywhere he goes. When out walking, fans often tell him his shows are great. People crowd around and tell him bad jokes, and he smiles, or retorts with some great lines of his own. Other times he's quiet, but all the while he's listening, and thinking, and courteous to his fans.

Until IBM puts him behind a glass screen and the crowd dares him to come out. Then they're in for a quick drenching with fruit juice and watermelon innards, while the blue suites writhe and yowl. Now there's a show that was worth a stained shirt or two.

BOARDWATCH 100 READERS' CHOICE BBS CONTEST 1994

The **Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice BBS** contest has become something of an institution each winter when BBS callers all over the country fax or mail in their ballots nominating their favorite BBS for inclusion in a list of 100 BBS's that garner the most votes. This year, the contest will run from January 1, 1994 through June 30, 1994. Winners will be announced at the Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17-21, 1994. The Boardwatch 100 list will be published in subsequent issues of Boardwatch Magazine and distributed in electronic form world-wide. Last year's Boardwatch 100 BBS list has been widely disseminated electronically, and published in several books.

PRIZES FOR BULLETIN BOARD OPERATORS

1ST PRIZE: The BBS system receiving the largest number of valid ballots will be named the most popular BBS and will be presented with an award trophy at the **ONE BBSCON** held in Atlanta Georgia, August 17-21, 1994. Additionally, the winning BBS will receive air fare, hotel accommodations and registration at ONE BBSCON for the primary BBS operator as the guest of Boardwatch Magazine. Additionally, the system will be featured in a story in Boardwatch Magazine and a free full-page color advertisement in Boardwatch Magazine for a period of three months.

TOP TEN: The ten most popular bulletin boards selected by the voters will each receive an award trophy at the ONE BBSCON, a story describing their system in Boardwatch Magazine, inclusion in a special top ten BBS listing in the magazine, and a free quarter-page black and white advertisement in three successive issues. Additionally, they will be listed in the Boardwatch 100 BBS list. System operators from the top 10 who attend ONE BBSCON will receive an award trophy in a special awards session.

TOP ONE HUNDRED: The 100 bulletin boards receiving the most votes will each be listed in the Boardwatch 100 readers choice BBS list. This list will be published in Boardwatch Magazine and freely distributed electronically on thousands of bulletin boards worldwide.

IN CASE OF TIE. Positions for which an identical number of votes are received will be determined by point value established by the date stamp assigned to each received ballot. Time/Date stamp values are accumulated for all votes and a cumulative score assigned to each BBS based on date of receipt of ballots. Votes receive a date stamp value between 1 and 180 based on the day of the contest the vote is received. System with lowest (earliest) cumulative date stamp score will prevail in event of tie.

PRIZES FOR VOTERS

All valid ballots submitted by voters will be entered in a random sweepstakes drawing. As of the opening date of this contest, prizes include two Hayes OPTIMA 288 V.FX + FAX modems, two U.S. Robotics modems, and two ZyXEL modems. A minimum of six valid ballots will be selected from all entries and each will receive a free modem - from the most popular modem manufacturers in the world.

RULES FOR CALLERS

Each voter can vote once, for a single bulletin board system. Each ballot must be fully completed, and individually mailed by each voter. We will verify ballots as necessary. There are three ways to vote:

1. Complete this ballot and mail to: **BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE, READERS CHOICE BBS CONTEST**, 8500 West Bowles Ave. Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123.

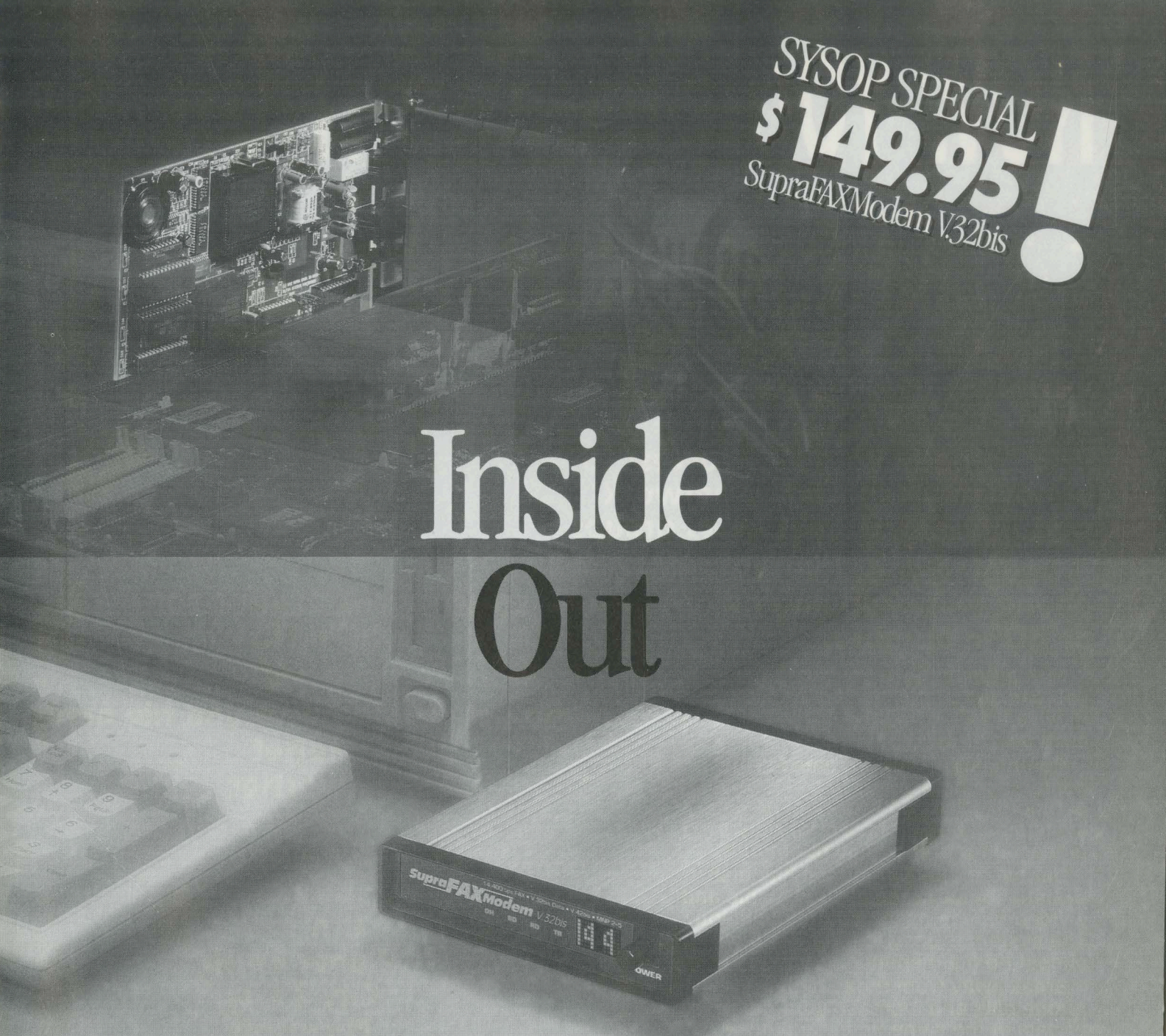
2. Complete this ballot and FAX to **(303)933-0876**.

3. Or, dial the Boardwatch BBS at **(303)973-4222** and complete the online ballot provided on the main menu.

Balloting closes at 23:59:59 on June 30, 1994.

This contest is not limited to Boardwatch Magazine subscribers, and no purchase of anything is required to participate in this contest. Reasonable facsimiles of this ballot are acceptable, so long as all specified information is included.

We held this contest during 1993 and it generated over 20,200 votes by the close of balloting for some 1,775 different bulletin boards. The TOP system received 1,330 votes. Your individual vote can have a tremendous impact on the outcome of this contest. Further, the odds of winning a modem in last years contest were roughly 1 in 3,340. You won't get those odds in the lottery.



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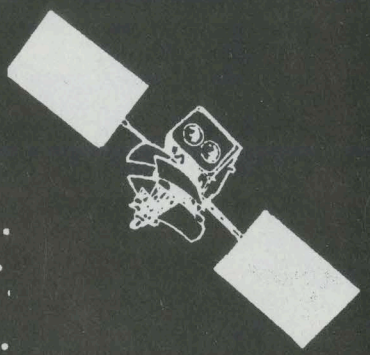

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RULES FOR BBS OPERATORS

While the obvious winners in such a contest are the BBSs voted the most popular, The Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice contest is designed for the callers. This is their chance to note what elements of a BBS are important to them, and to designate a BBS they think the world should know about. And they receive the hardware prizes.

But past contests have indicated that the winning bulletin boards do campaign a bit. Bulletin Board Operators may encourage callers to vote for their system by offering whatever inducements/encouragements they like. There is one rule to this contest for BBS operators. ***YOU MAY NOT HANDLE ANY VOTE AFTER THE CALLER HAS COMPLETED THE BALLOT. YOU MAY NOT HANDLE IT IN ANY WAY.***

BBS operators may provide callers with anything they like, including postage paid envelopes, printed matter, solicitations, Jaguar convertibles, etc. But once they have completed a ballot, if they touch, handle, or otherwise deal with the ballot in any way, their BBS will be disqualified from the contest without appeal or recourse.

This is because we have developed adequate mechanisms to determine the validity of votes received - and they have proven effective. But if we allow BBSs to collect ballots, we have no mechanism for determining ballots that "got lost" and were never passed on to Boardwatch Magazine.

This contest is open to all bulletin boards worldwide with the sole exception of the Boardwatch Magazine BBS - which is ineligible. Commercial services such as Prodigy, America Online, CompuServe, are considered to be networks and not bulletin boards for the purposes of this contest. HOWEVER, individual forums, roundtables, or special interest areas moderated by a specific human SYSOP on those services and allowing callers to post messages in that specific area ARE considered to be bulletin boards for the purposes of this contest and may participate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM LAST YEAR'S CONTEST

Q. Can I vote for my own BBS.

A. Yes. If you don't think your BBS is the best in North America, it's unlikely anyone else will. You may vote for your own BBS, and encourage others to do likewise.

Q. Can I vote more than once?

A. No.

Q. Can I change my vote?

A. No. Once a vote is received, it is added to a database and tallied. There is no mechanism for altering votes. If we receive more than one vote from a single person, BOTH votes are disqualified and removed without notification. If more than one vote is received from the same address, we may contact the voters to ensure both votes are from different callers.

Q. Can I post an electronic survey form on my BBS and allow my callers to vote electronically online?

A. No. Electronic balloting is provided only on the Boardwatch BBS, primarily in response to past requests from vision impaired/disabled callers. BBS operators participating in the contest may not handle the ballot in any way, electronically or otherwise, after it is completed by the caller.

Q. Can I collect votes from my callers and mail them in for them.

A. No.

Q. Can I collect votes from my callers and fax them in for them?

A. No.

Q. Can I print up special ballots, and mail them to my callers with postage prepaid envelopes?

A. Yes. The ballot must include ALL information and questions from the ballot printed in Boardwatch Magazine and the ballot provided to callers must not be pre-completed. It must be a truly blank ballot allowing them to vote for whatever BBS they wish to vote for. But broadly, you can provide anything you like TO the voters.

Q. Can I obtain a list of those voting for my BBS?

A. No. Voter data is used for vote verification and statistical analysis only. We cannot provide voter lists to anyone.

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1994 Readers' Choice BBS Contest

Boardwatch Magazine is sponsoring the Third Annual Readers' Choice BBS Contest to find the 100 most popular bulletin board systems in North America - and the ONE BBS most popular among callers. The contest will run from January 1, 1994 through June 30, 1994. Winners will be announced at the **Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention** (ONE BBSCON) held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17-21, 1994. The Boardwatch 100 list will be published in subsequent issues of Boardwatch Magazine and distributed in electronic form world-wide.

PRIZES FOR VOTERS

All valid ballots submitted by voters will be entered in a random sweepstakes drawing. As of the opening date of this contest, prizes include five U.S. Robotics Courier Top of the line Modems, five Hayes OPTIMA 288 V.FC + FAX modems, and five ZyXEL Top of the line modems - and more are on the way. A minimum of 15 valid ballots will be selected from all entries and each will receive a free modem - from the most popular modem manufacturers in the world.

RULES FOR CALLERS

Each voter can vote once, for a single bulletin board system. Each ballot must be **fully completed**, and individually mailed by each voter. We will verify ballots as necessary. There are three ways to vote:

1. Complete this ballot and mail to: BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE, READERS' CHOICE BBS CONTEST, 8500 W Bowles Ave, Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123.

2. Complete this ballot and FAX to **(303)933-0876**.

3. Or, dial the Boardwatch BBS at **(303)973-4222** and complete the online ballot provided on the main menu.

Balloting closes at 23:59:59 on June 30, 1994.

This contest is not limited to Boardwatch Magazine subscribers, and no purchase is required to participate in this contest. Reasonable facsimiles of this ballot are acceptable, so long as all specified information is included.

Title of bbs you vote for as the BEST: _____

Primary BBS access telephone number: _____

Is this BBS a long distance or toll call for you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Voter name: _____ Voice telephone number: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Primary communications software you use: _____

Primary modem manufacture and model: _____

Highest speed your modem supports: ☐ 1200bps ☐ 2400bps ☐ 9600bps ☐ 14400bps ☐ 19200bps ☐ 28800bps

Operating system: ☐ DOS ☐ OS/2 ☐ WINDOWS ☐ MAC ☐ AMIGA ☐ UNIX ☐ OTHER

Estimated BBS calls you make per month: _____ Average call duration: _____

Estimated investment in hardware and software: $ _____

Primary online interest (check all that apply): ☐ Mail/Mail Conferences ☐ Games/Entertainment ☐ Chat/Social ☐ News/Information ☐ Shareware (Files)

Do you also maintain accounts on commercial services? ☐ AOL ☐ Compuserve ☐ Delphi/BIX ☐ GEnie ☐ Prodigy ☐ None

AGE: _____ SEX: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE:

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Planet Systems Inc. Headquarters, Newport, Tennessee

PLANET CONNECT SATELLITE SYSTEM - FIDONET/USENET MAIL FIREHOSE FROM THE SKY

by Tracy Mickley

Users are going to love it, the phone company is going to hate it and sysops think it's the hottest thing in Modemland. Using satellite technology, Planet Connect has managed to bring down the cost of being a Fidonet sysop to fraction of what it was. Imagine getting the entire Fidonet backbone feed, plus most of the Fidonet File Distribution Net(FDN) for thirty dollars a month. You also get Rosenet, CRS net, Intellec net, Rime net, daily radar weather maps and TV listings. Select Usenet newsgroup feeds are being sent now as a test and PC will begin sending the entire Usenet newsgroup feed New Years day.

The entire setup is amazingly simple. The system consists of a C band or KU band satellite dish, a Planet Connect receiver, a null modem cable, and the Planet Connect software on a dedicated computer. With that you get a 19.2K baud feed of approximately 15 to 20 megs a day. Planet Connect offers you a complete system, C or KU band, or the parts needed to use your own dish.

There are two major satellite frequency bands, C and KU. Basically, the larger the dish, the stronger and more reliable the signal you have to work with. C band dishes are usually 6 to 10 feet in diameter depending on where you fall in the satellites footprint. A sysop might be able to get by with a 6' C band dish in Tennessee. A sysop in Canada will probably need a 10' dish. A KU band dish is much smaller physically due to the higher KU band frequency and stronger satellite signal. A huge KU dish is 4'. Planet Connect offers both a 2' and 3' dish but recommends the 3' dish for stronger reception and less rain fade influence.

Choosing KU or C band

There are advantages and drawbacks to both bands. The KU band dish is much smaller in size, somewhat cheaper and easier to install. There is a wall mount unit that can be used for a vertical wall, an inclined roof or a traditional pole mount. You can also get a non-penetrating floor mount for a flat roof or concrete pad mounting. The advantage to the floor mount is that it can be placed on a flat roof and secured using concrete blocks for ballast to avoid puncturing the roof membrane. The drawback to KU band is that it is susceptible to rain fade data errors. If the rain is a frog strangler you may lose some data. If you lose one block of a file transfer, you lose the entire file since the satellite is downlink only. You don't have an error correcting protocol that can simply retransmit the bad block as a modem connection would. This isn't as bad as it sounds. Planet Connect retransmits everything currently 3 to 5 times a day. If you miss one file due to extremely heavy rain, chances are you'll get it the next time around. If the worst should happen and you can't get any one of the duplicate transmissions, you can call their bbs and download the files you need directly.

The C band dish is big and requires a traditional pole mount. The Planet Connect C band dish is 7 1/2' and it is slightly more expensive than the KU band. You may need a larger dish if you are Canada or the southern tip of Florida. Installation difficulty also goes up due to the size of the dish. To give you an idea, I mounted a 3' KU dish on

my back yard fence in about an hour. Another sysop told me he spent the better part of a day just to pour his concrete pole mount pad and set a pole for his C band dish. Another drawback to C band is they are affected by microwave transmissions. The Telcos (and others) have line of sight direct beam microwave transmission towers scattered around the country. These create 1/2 mile wide microwave alleys that crisscross the country side and urban areas. If you happen to be in one of the 1/2 mile wide strips you have to some how block the microwave signal from interfering with your dish. A building will do. Chances are slim you'll be impacted, but you may want to check with a local satellite dealer first. C band is not affected by rain fade.

Can I get TV too?

Yes and no. It will take additional equipment for video reception and a signal splitter. The KU band feed uses the Galaxy 4 satellite and you won't find much of anything in the way of TV to bother with other than the occasional wild feed (early transmission of network shows) and some academic conferences from universities around the country. The C band bird, Galaxy 3, on the other hand, has a full range of video signal you can pick up. Planet Connect does not sell any of the additional equipment you need to pick up video. Your local satellite dealer can help you out here also. Orbit magazine will show you what you can expect from either feed if video reception is part of your purchase decision.

Locating the dish

After deciding which dish you want, you have to figure out where it will be placed. PC will provide you with a kit that includes software, a water pail compass (a magnetized nail on a piece of foam), an inclometer and a video. You will need to get your latitude, longitude and magnetic deviation from the local airport or a map. You enter these into the PC Satellite Finder software program and you then have the angle and direction the dish needs to point. With that information in hand, you trample about your back yard with the provided inclometer and water pail compass to find an unobstructed view for the dish, hoping your neighbors aren't looking out their kitchen window.

Installation of the dish

If there is any area that really needs improvement, major improvement, it's in the actual installation procedure. At present there is no written installation procedures. PC does provide an installation video that accompanies the system demonstrating the dish tuning procedure. The video mentions nothing about assembly or mounting of the dish. The dish assembly and mounting instructions are a simple CAD drawing of the dish and mounting assembly hardware. A call to Planet Connect confirmed that it was a problem they were working on improving it but they've been too busy filling orders to come up with better installation documentation. A color crayon sketch would be improvement. If you aren't mechanically inclined, get some one to help you. I'm not that mechanical, but I do know the difference between the pointy end and the blunt end of a screwdriver and did manage to install the dish myself. My kit was missing the female coax cable connectors and the null modem serial cable. A rummage through my spare parts box got me past that. Tuning the dish requires you to point it in the general vicinity of the satellite and then listen for a variable pitch tone while moving it around to find the exact angle and direction. When the tone peaks, you are tuned in. I was able to lock into a strong signal in just 10 minutes.

Installing the software

Installing the software is a 15 minute job. There is no printed documentation so you are stuck with READ.ME files and a lot of questions. Ignore your nagging questions, do a little editing to a couple configuration files as instructed in the documentation, meager as it is, and the software is up and running. The software requires a dongle key that attaches to your printer port. You get 30 days to sign the contract and get the paperwork out of the way for your subscription or the dongle expires and your feed disappears. To renew your subscription, call Planet Connect while at your computer and enter the renewal code provided by a serial number/date algorithm. This will update the dongle to the new expiration date. You have the option of monthly, quarterly or annual subscriptions. The monthly rate is $40/month, quarterly is $35/month and annual rate is $30/month. There is an additional $10 fee per month if you pass a feed to any other systems.

Up and running...almost

Once your satellite is up and running, the real fun starts. Your mailer software will need to be configured to handle an AKA of 1:3615/51 and mail bundles in PKzip

The KU Band Kit with 3' dish

The IDC Satellite Reciever

2.04g format. Outbound reply mail must be sent to 3615/50 which is Planet Connects own bbs using dBridge. PC currently has 2 inbound land lines and 1 ISDN line. They indicate they will add more incoming lines as demand increases. The first fresh feed of the day starts at 7:30AM Eastern time and takes approximately 3 hours. Fidonet Files come in using 0000FFFF.MO1 naming convention averaging 500K per bundle. When all of the mail files arrive, PC sends a special trigger file that allows the software to exit with a DOS ERRORLEVEL for a DOS batch file to process what you have on disk. A PC supplied freeware utility, courtesy John Morano, moves the files to your specified areas for processing and deletes any subsequent incoming duplicates. Processing the inbound FDN files requires TICK or equivalent also using the 3615/51 AKA. Plan on a couple hours setting up the 170+ directories and TIC config file for the inbound files if you insist on keeping them separate by category. I wrote a little throw away utility to handle all that just to save some typing but there was still plenty of editing to do between my areas.bbs and tick files. You should note that not every FDN has agreed to participate in the PC downlink, notably the Genealogy FDN, but that position has been reconsidered after several sysop's complained loudly and it now appears to be poised for placement on the bird as are a few other holdouts. Most FDN's are there and you will be hard pressed to determine which are missing.

Hardware ...Caveat Emptor

Most sysops report they are able to multitask the current software successfully. If you do plan on multitasking, you will need to assign high priority to the PC software's DOS partition or have some fast iron, or both, to avoid data over run errors. The latest version of the PC software does have integrated 16550 UART support. A welcome relief to most sysop's from previous versions that did not support the FIFO buffer in the 16550 chip. There have also been isolated problems reported with heavy LAN access during reception that causes receive errors. I hammered my PC machine with my Lantastic to try and force an error and I couldn't get it to even burp. The new 16550 support should eliminate most of these isolated problems that have been reported. The printer port dongle creates its own problems too, minor as they are. Your printer must be powered on while plugged in the back of the dongle or you must remove the printer entirely. PC's voice technical support has been good and there is a support echo (PLANET_CONNECT) active with helpful participants and monitored by PC. Tech support hours are noon to 10pm daily and noon to 6pm weekends. My last call at 10:30pm their time found tech support still open for business. The extended hours are a breath of fresh air for a SYSOP.

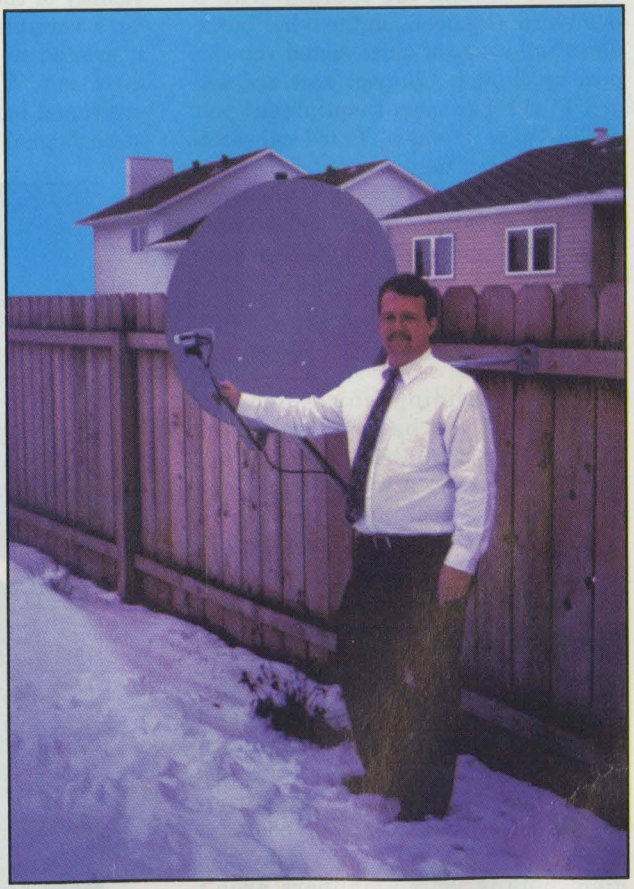
Newsgroups from the Internet

The mantra of most every SYSOP in the last year has been connecting to the Internet and picking up newsgroups. The reality hits home when they are faced with access charges and phone bills that dwarf Fidonet feeds. Despite that, bbs's have been linking to Internet faster than the commercial services can handle the load. PC will take some of the load off the commercial Internet services by providing a full Usenet Newsgroup feed starting January 1. PC is currently sending the alt.bbs.* newsgroups as a beta test. The newsgroup files come compressed with PKzip and unpack to *.BAG files which is the same format as the PageSat system sends for their newsgroup feed. Using PIMP for TBBS, I simply move the *.BAG files to the appropriate directory and PIMP does the rest. Many sysop's are are using Fredgate or Waffle to handle posting the newsgroups.

You will need to set up an account with an Internet link that will handle a one way uplink for replies or posts to any of the newsgroups. Planet Connect does not handle the replies or posts to newsgroups as they do with the Fidonet feed. A quick call to my Internet link, Holonet, confirmed it was no problem to send newsgroup postings to them for upstream only.

Electronic TV Listings

PC also sends files containing complete cable TV listings daily. These files are well over 100K in



Tracy Mickley with his home installation

size and contain the complete daily program schedule for most every cable TV company in the US. They also provide a reader program that takes the raw data and gives it a front end with search and display abilities to show only the cable listings in your area. The PC SYSOP gets the reader for no charge. BBS users will pay Planet Connect $24.95 for the reader software and then pick up the daily listings from your board. PC is planning on providing sysop's with a conversion program to process the listing file down to only those cable systems in their local area for much shorter daily downloading times. When I talked to Planet Connect at ONEBBSCON, they said they were looking into daily stock quotations eventually coming down the bird. They haven't mentioned it since but demonstrating what they can do with the TV listings, stock quotations seem to be a natural.

Should I or shouldn't I?

Despite the flaws of poor documentation and some difficulty in multitasking, the system works beautifully. You'll find yourself just watching the screen tick off incoming blocks or glancing at the dish in the back yard and grinning. You simply can't beat the economics of the satellite feed and many nets are discussing cost sharing plans to purchase one dish to provide a cheap feed for everyone in their net. At this price for what you get, you'll want to have one of your own. This technology is going to revolutionize the Fido net and Usenet newsgroups bringing thousands of message areas on-line to systems that couldn't afford the phone bill or access charges in the past. I expect message traffic is going to increase to the point where individual sysops or nets will be forced to get the system or cut back on some message areas to handle the telephone bill. My telephone bill dropped $130 for the first partial month on the bird and once the full Usenet newsgroups hit the air it will drop quite a bit more. The best part of the whole system is the number of message areas I'm able to provide my users for a great deal less expense than I ever thought possible. This simply is a must have system, warts and all.

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Tracy Mickley is the SYSOP of Flat-Land BBS **(701-239-6048)**. *He is a long time TBBS sysop, third party software author for TBBS and a co-author of the book, TBBS: Tips, Traps and Techniques to be released in January. He can be reached at Fido node 288/6 or Internet email* **tmickley@flatland.com**

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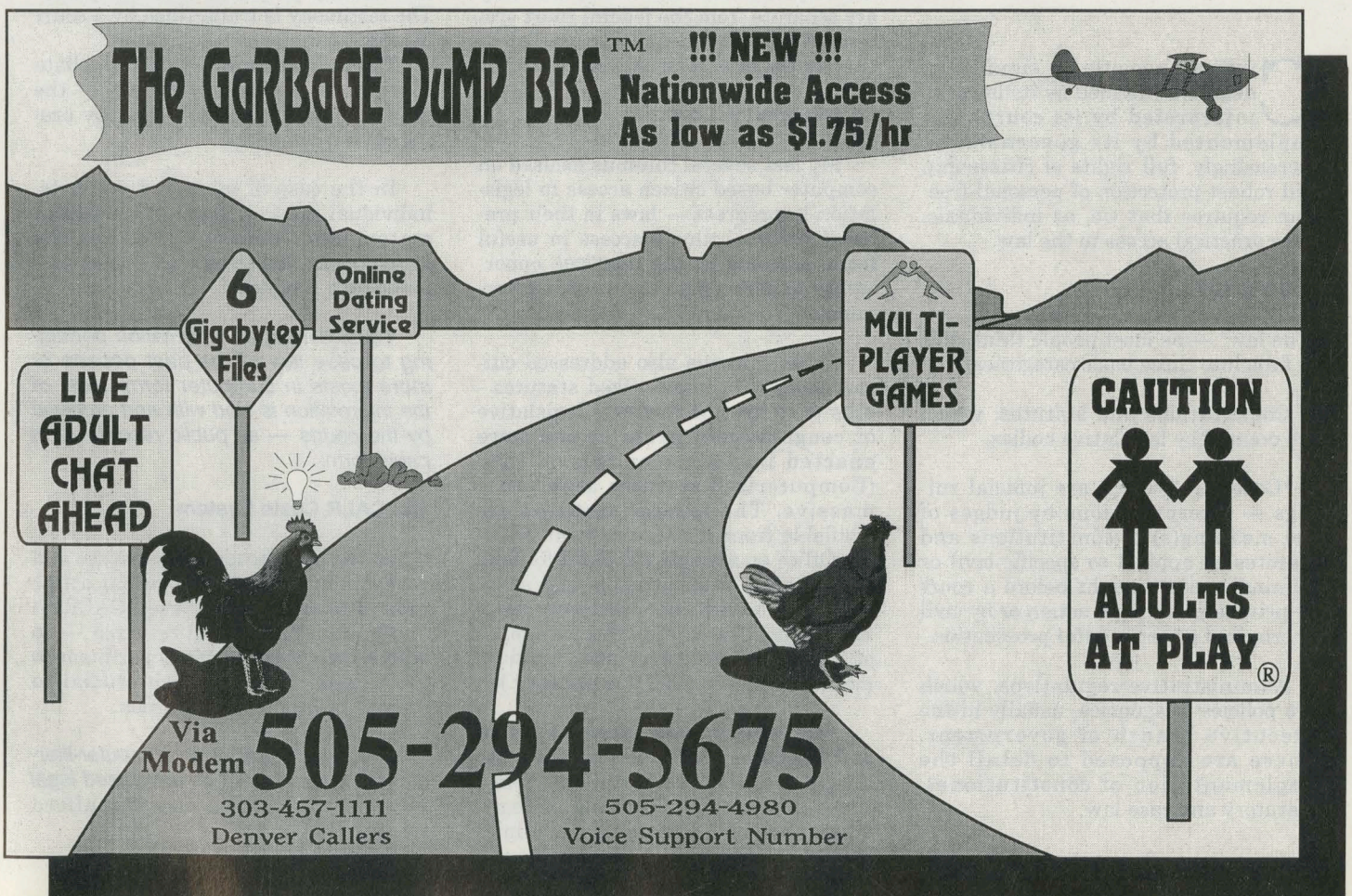
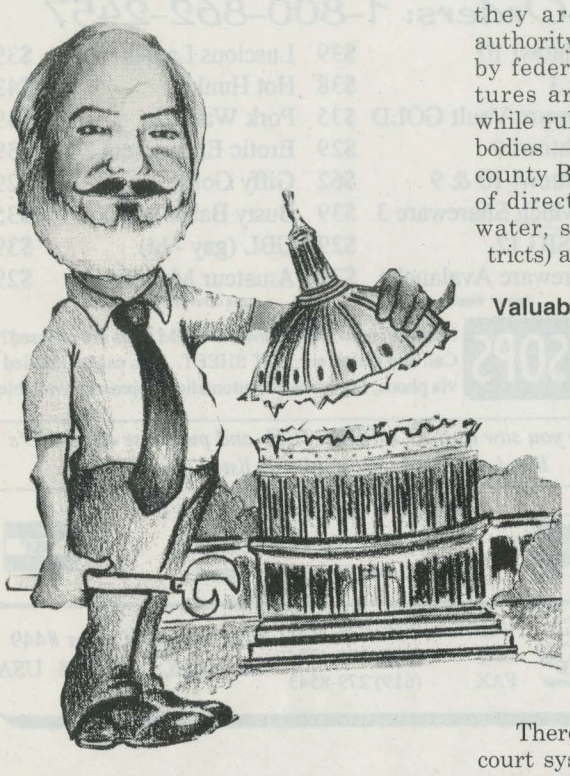


ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

WHOSE LAWS ARE THEY, ANYWAY?

by Jim Warren



Civilized society, in significant degree, is defined by its laws, as interpreted by its courts and implemented by its governments. Increasingly, full rights of citizenship and robust protection of personal freedom requires that we, as individuals, have practical access to the law.

Poli Sci 101

"The law" — as most people think of it — falls into three basic categories:

1. Constitutions and statutes, which are created by legislative bodies.

2. "Case law," which are judicial rulings — interpretations by judges of the meaning(s) of constitutions and statutes as applied to specific civil or criminal cases brought before a court by private-party legal action or by civil or criminal governmental prosecution.

3. Administrative regulations, which are policies of agencies, usually in the executive branch of government. These are supposed to detail the implementation of constitutional, statutory and case law.

Nomenclature: Just to confuse matters, both legislated statutes and administrative regulations are sometimes called, "codes" — even though they are vastly different in their authority. Furthermore, rules enacted by federal Congress or state legislatures are usually called "statutes," while rules enacted by local legislative bodies — such as city or town councils, county Boards of Supervisors or boards of directors of special districts (e.g. water, sewer, parks and harbor districts) are usually called "ordinances."

Valuable Laws

In practice, access to statutes is of limited value without access to their interpretations by the courts — rulings that gain importance as they are issued initially by a trial court, then reviewed by an appellate court (when a trial-court decision is appealed), and especially if interpreted by a state supreme court or the federal U.S. Supreme Court.

There are separate, parallel, similar court systems for each state, and they are separate from the federal court system. All court rulings are useful in varying degrees, even between states.

Legislation vs. Law

My last several columns focused on computer-based citizen access to legislation-in-progress — laws in their prenatal stage — timely access in useful form, allowing us the *practical* opportunity to participate in our own governance.

Those columns also addressed citizen access to computerized statutes - bills that ran the tortuous legislative or congressional gauntlet and were enacted into state or federal law. (Computerized statutes aren't that massive. The federal statutes are available from the Government Printing Office on a single CD ROM for $30. California's Constitution and state statutes, for instance, compose about 125-million characters - free, online, as of January, 1994; previously sold on magtape for over $200,000 per copy.)

But statutes are often vague or ambiguous — often due to inadequate insight into their ramifications; sometimes due to sloppy drafting by legislators and their staff; and, sometimes from lack of backbone on the part of legislators unwilling to clearly define their intent in controversial legislation. (A significant percentage of the time and expense spent on new legislation is drafting corrections to errors and oversights in old legislation.)

This column concerns modern [computer-assisted] public/citizen access to case law — which, in many ways, is more important than statutory law.

Computerized Case Law

Case law begins when someone initiates an court action (civil or criminal) — almost always required to be adversarial where one or both parties accuse and threaten the other.

Next, there is a discovery process whereby each side uses rules of court procedure to demand information from the other side — primarily by inquiry and sworn depositions — usually drafted on a computer system.

If the sides don't settle their feud, then they go to trial, wherein each adversary pleads their case via written briefs and verbal testimony. The briefs are usually prepared on a computer. The testimony is transcribed by a court reporter, usually on a computer.

The judge or multi-judge appellate court issues a ruling or rulings — the decision(s) of the court — usually prepared on a computer.

In the case of multi-judge courts, individual justices may issue separate statements ("opinions") stating the rationale for their positions — also prepared on a computer.

Thus, almost all information pertaining to case law of the past decade or more exists in computer form. Most of the information is filed with and archived by the courts — as public records — in paper form.

The CALR Caste System

In the last decade-plus, private and government civil and criminal attorneys have increasingly used CALR — computer-assisted legal research — to search case law for rulings pertinent to their cases, and research crucial to competent legal representation.

And, *more and more computer-literate citizens are using computerized legal information* — when they can afford access to it.

Clients and attorneys who can't afford CALR have become second-class citizens. Their legal rights and representation are severely limited by tedious, costly, increasingly-inadequate manual searches through law books, obsolete by the time they were bound in platinum-priced paper tomes.

At the bottom of justice's caste system are the mere citizens who have inadequate financial resources — when their adversary is the government or a wealthy individual or corporation.

Government attorneys in funds-crunched local agencies and, to some extent state agencies, are higher up the caste system. They can afford *some* access to CALR.

Near the top of the caste system is the federal Department of Justice (DoJ). It has considerably-more financial resources for CALR — though of course, always limited, and always paid by tax-payers.

At the top of this Caste System of "Justice" are the wealthy individuals and corporations — with unilateral discretion to spend as much as they choose on legal attacks or defense.

Efficient — i.e. computer-assisted — access to complete and current legal information (statutes, pleadings, rulings and administrative policies) is the Great Equalizer for the 20th Century's gun-slingers and their clients in the modern OK Corral, the courts.

Citizens without CALR had best bow their heads and politely grovel — a most un-American posture.

Citizens Could Have Equal Access

In the '70s and early '80s, the DoJ owned and operated a CALR system called **Juris** for use by DoJ attorneys.

Most importantly, Juris contained federal case law, computerized at great tax-payer expense. Juris also contained administrative law, treaties, regulatory policies, etc. — valuable information sometimes not computerized any place else.

The Clinton-Gore administration has sought to open computerized federal public records to public access. That could potentially give citizens and their attorneys equal access to a crucial legal resource — computerized case-law.

Forget it!

DoJ Screwed Tax-Payers and

The home-grown Juris system was reportedly funky and infuriating for the DoJ attorneys wanting to use CALR in preparing their federal cases.

Pressured by information-industry lobbyists in 1983, the Reagan administration contracted with West Publishing, a major law-book publisher, to gather and computerize federal judicial opinions — which they already did for their publishing operation and Westlaw online system — and provide CALR services to DoJ.

DoJ apparently quit computerizing federal rulings.

But, during the decade that DoJ paid massive tax loot to West for computerized federal case law, it permitted West to "own" the computerized copies it provided!

Furthermore, for many years, federal courts have required that attorneys use the page numbers in West's published federal rulings when citing federal case law in legal briefs.

West Springs Their Trap

A few months ago, West declined to renew their DoJ contract. And, oh by the way, their page numbers — the federal courts' required, standard references — are copyrighted and may not be used in any paper or computerized law database or publication without West's permission.

If our tax-funded federal government wants computerized access to federal court rulings for the past decade, it can pay more tax loot to re-computerize them — *IF* DoJ can retrieve them from all of their original sources.

But the federal court's required reference numbers can't be included. Wanna cite federal case law in federal-court briefs? Pay West — through the nose.

Were are the computer pirates when we really need 'em?

Congress Cops Out

House Resolution 4426 (H.R.4426) would have declared that page-numbers on judicial decisions were not protected by copyright. But the House Judiciary Committee killed it.

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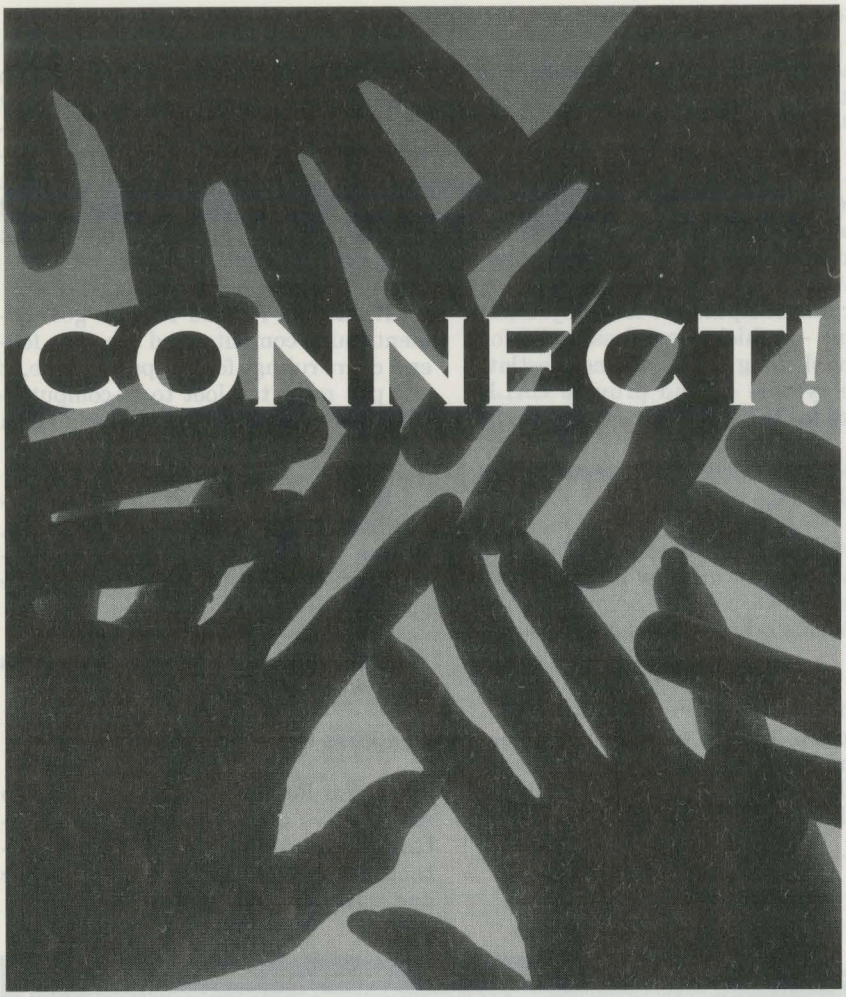

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The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts proposed to establish a non-proprietary system of citations and pagination. But the Judicial Conference killed it.

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If you care about equal access to justice, or even about this waste of your taxes, then flame your Congress Creatures — your so-called representatives — and your region's federal Circuit Court Justices for allowing this to continue.

Details of this Juris/DoJ debacle came from reports by James Love, Director of the Taxpayer Assets Project. This is one of the best public-interest organizations fighting in Washington DC for equal and public access to *our* computerized public information — invaluable taxpayers' assets. For more information, updates and specifics of how you can help, contact him at 202-387-8030 or via Internet email to **love@essential.org**. (TAP is a Ralph Nadar group.)

Better Hopes for State Access

As the legal system grinds to a halt under the load of paper blizzards, courts are looking at requiring that briefs and motions be filed with the court in machine-readable form — more compact, easier to index, search, cross-reference and extract. (Pity the future judge who remains computer-phobic. Much worse — pity their appellants.)

As branches of the federal government and of various states seek to improve their government, they often look — for better or worse — at what California is doing. In 1990, Chief Justice Malcolm M. Lucas of the California [State] Supreme Court initiated a project, "2020 Vision: A Plan for the Future of California's Courts." To pursue this vision and planning project, he formed the Commission on the Future of the California Courts, chaired by Dr. Robert Dockson, former Dean of the University of Southern California Graduate School of Business.

The Commission created a Technology Committee chaired by Associate Justice George Nicholson of the 3rd District [California State] Court of Appeals (Sacramento CA) — who appears to be an enthusiastic supporter of applying computer roto-rooters to the paper-clogged plumbing of the legal system.

At press deadline, I was told the Commission expects to issue its comprehensive report and recommendations around January 20th. Watch this column for details of California's recommendations for modernizing the court system — likely-useful guidelines for preparing *any* state's judicial system for the 21st Century.

Jim Warren 345 Swett Rd., Woodside CA 94062; **(415)851-7075***; Internet:***jwarren@well.sf.ca.us** *has been a computer writer, lecturer and organizer for more than 20 years.*

He founded ***InfoWorld*** *, the Computers, Freedom & Privacy conferences, the huge Computer Faires of the "70s, was founding host of PBS' "Computer Chronicles"and founding Editor of* ***Dr. Dobb's Journal*** *.*

He began working as a minicomputer programmer in 1968, holds three graduate degrees and has taught computing at Stanford and other universities.

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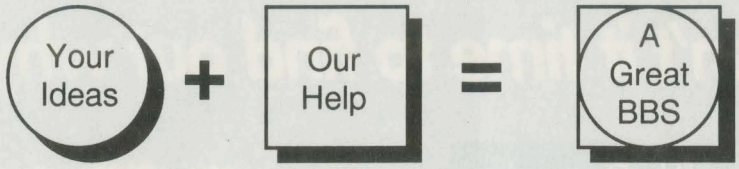

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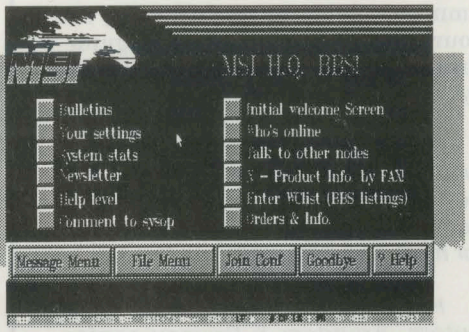

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by Bill Gram-Reefer

UUCP GATEWAY FOR FIRSTCLASS

Information Access Technologies, Inc. the Berkeley, CA-based provider of HoloNet Internet service, has announced the release of its HoloGate:FirstClass/UUCP a gateway that allows administrators of FirstClass e-mail systems to connect to a UUCP provider to receive Internet e-mail and USENET news. The company announced plans to release similar gateways to support CE Software's QuickMail and Microsoft Mail.

Compatible with HoloUUCP, the FirstClass gateway provides an easy-to-install connection to the Internet to provide e-mail connections for users and access to more than 5,000 unique newsgroups. Features of the HoloGate:FirstClass/UUCP Gateway include UUCP Protocols "g" & "G" supporting maximum packet and window size, and UUCP Protocols "i" & "j" that facilitate simultaneous, bidirectional signal transfer without file transfer start-up delays. USENET Newsgroups can accept and send news in unbatched, batched, and compressed formats, and provides for automatic conference threading. Mail Address aliasing is supported, as is the "E" command that can be used to reduce the number of files transferred. Enclosure Support is handled either by BINHEX or uuencoded-AppleSingle. A flexible scheduler allows administrators to specify calling times for transfers. Planned upgrades (free for six months) will support MIME and allow priority scheduling of conference connections independent of e-mail connections. Pricing for a single system license is $500. An upgrade that includes the "i" protocol costs an additional $100. For more information contact **IAT** at 46 Shattuck Square, Ste 11, Berkeley, CA 94704-1152; **(510) 704-0160** (voice); or **support@holonet.net** (e-mail).

NPTN TABS FC FOR RURAL FREE NETS

The National Public Telecomputing Network (NPTN), champion of free, community-based telecomputing, announced its plans to launch a grassroots rural Free-Net program using SoftArc's FirstClass communications software. NPTN, which positions itself as the telecomputing equivalent of public broadcasting, currently has a network of 22 free public nets in 22 cities with plans to bring another dozen online soon. The first Free-Net based on FirstClass, The Great Lakes Free-Net based in Calhoun, MI came online in November. It offers a graphical user interface to community services including government offices, courts, local libraries, the Red Cross, and other organizations.

The NPTN rural outreach program, to be launched in January 1994, will be based on Macintosh computers running FirstClass e-mail and conferencing software. Internet connectivity will be facilitated through periodic UUCP connections using SoftArc's UUCP Internet Gateway. Estimated institutional pricing for rural libraries, governments, and schools, including NPTN cybercasting services, hardware and software is not expected to exceed $10,000 per net.

To be sold as a turnkey solution offered by NPTN, a specially configured edition of FirstClass will be offered to qualified recipients. That configuration includes a FirstClass Macintosh Server, support for 5,000 telecom users and 2 regular users, Windows and Command Line Interfaces, 20 modem port software licensing and serial-port expansion hardware, and the UUCP Gateway. For more information on how to register as a Free-Net, contact **The National Public Telecomputing Network** at Box 1987, Cleveland, OH 44106; **(216) 247-5800** (voice); **tmg@nptn.org** (e-mail).

HERMES II NOW SHIPPING

Since acquiring the venerable Hermes Macintosh BBS program last Spring, new owner Lloyd Woodall of Computer Classifieds has developed a major upgrade package. Programmer Robert Rebbun has added over 70 new features and enhancements to this widely used program that now supports color ANSI graphic menus in addition to ASCII menus.

Other new and improved features include form letters, support for Caller ID, embedded variables in BBS text, network capability, all new setup menus, security and access control menus, and the ability to run hundreds of external applications available from the company's support BBS. External applications available include: product ordering modules, games, and on-line chatting, to name a few.

Hermes II supports the use of multi-port serial devices and allows for a combined total of 10 modems, AppleTalk, and local nodes on a single Mac. Distributed as keyware through the support BBS, callers can download and operate a fully functional copy of Hermes II for 30 days. Registration for continued use is still only $95. Hermes II, on-line support, modems, hardware and cards are also available from **Computer Classifieds**, 12819 SE 38th #101, Bellevue, WA 98006; **(206) 643-2316** (voice); **(206) 643-2874** support BBS.

TWO NEW SUPER BOOKS

Stop the presses. Literally. Two new authoritative tomes covering Macintosh BBSing and Internet surfing are now on the shelves in well-stocked bookstores everywhere. Together they provide so much information that you'll not need to read or refer to anything else for quite some time. Meaning—-publishers can chill the Internet titles for awhile so we have time to digest the wealth of material found in these two most excellent resource guides. Really, you'll want both!

Adam C. Engst, publisher of the online TidBITS, has authored the **Internet Starter Kit for Macintosh** (KIT). The KIT includes 640 pages, and a disk crammed with everything you need to get started. KIT is softbound, published by Hayden Books, and costs a reasonable (considering the

value) $29.95. More recent is Bernard Aboba's **The Online User's Encyclopedia: Bulletin Boards and Beyond** (BEYOND), 800+ pages and published by Addison-Wesley.

The important differences between the two works be found in KIT focusing on using your Mac to get around the Internet, while BEYOND casts its net more broadly in covering bulletin boards, networks such as FidoNet, providing samplers of various BBS software and boards, explaining the vagaries of point software and readers, in addition to providing some carefully weighed product purchasing recommendations and darn-good oral history as told by many behind-the-scenes leaders of telecomputing. BEYOND also offers a special registration form, available by e-mail, that you can use to get special offers and updates (**aboba@world.std.com**, subject: form). The author is also sponsoring a $250 prize for the best filter program (same address, subject: contest).

Both guides provide more than adequate explanations of the Internet, where it came from, where it's headed, and the who, what, and how to use it. Both offer impressive indexes, glossaries, and appendices that include listings of newsgroups, in fact, nearly half of KIT contains nothing but listings of Internet resources.

The key to KIT however rests in its jump-start mentality of helping the reader get hotwired into the Internet the minute you put down the book by providing a diskette filled with all of the necessary software you need, plus a special offer to get your Internet SLIP account setup through Northwest Nexus, a commercial Internet provider based in Bellevue, WA. The account offers two free weeks of usage and costs $20 for registration, then $22.50 per month billed to your credit card in advance each month for as many hours of connect time as you want. One itty-bitty problem is you have to call the Pacific Northwest to log on. In any case, make sure you get a SLIP/PPP account that can use the software. The diskette includes current versions of Eudora (mail), Fetch (file retriever), InterSLIP (connect tool), MacTCP (from Apple), StuffIt Expander (Compactor), and TurboGopher (browser). What more could you ask for besides a year off to read these two wonderful guides and become a guru yourself?

MORE MAC BOARDS

You'll enjoy taking a look at **The Rest of Us (TROU)**, a FirstClass BBS operated by the Chicago Area Macintosh Users Group. Administrators Michael Zastrow et al have put together a nifty board that impresses from the start. First, on the user disk I received, there was a self-running, two minute HyperCard demo of how to setup the software and log onto the system using FirstClass; cool. Such attention to detail and helping people use the system is an innovative touch that should be commended and widely copied by all sysops. That was only the start, as the logon, augmented with sound, reveals a colorful screen with push buttons that transports you to the different areas on the board: mail, group business, SIGs and Files, want ads, gateways to networked OneNet conferences, and more information about the System. The graphical main screen of each of these sections is well thought-out and makes great use of custom icons. You can see the care and work that the group has put into running a colorful, easy-to-get-around system. But can it hit to right?

The group business section included a newsletter, appeals for volunteers for special projects, and a calendar. The local SIGs showed some promise with Chicago Talk, Children and the Mac, Entrepreneur Talk, and other areas including discussions of recycling and photography. OneNet conferences for environment, investors, graphics, modems, hardware, and PowerBook help fill in the gaps. Alongside these usual suspects, TROU carries some off-the-beaten-track OneNet conferences including Tobacco News (anti-smoking BBS), journalism, consumer action, mind puzzle, and Bike Shop. The files available for download include well-stocked Speech Manager and Sound sections. You'll also find folders dedicated to education, database, law, photo imaging, and images and icons, in addition to the regular fare. You get a nice "Program Complete" Trek sound after a successful download, too. The board also provides access to its own public domain files and frequently posts news about discounts members can enjoy. TROU is a good looking board with plenty to offer. **TROU BBS (312) 871-4484** bbs.

While not as polished as TROU, Mac's Last Stand (STAND), the official BBS of the Apple Cider and Club Mac User Groups of Rochester, NY, makes up for its comparative graphical shortcomings by offering sheer volume. Actually, Peter Alves and company do make use of many custom icons and provide a lot of nice sounds in various folders. This helps put some zing into an otherwise ho-hum "desktop with icons" format.

But who calls a BBS just because it looks pretty, anyhow? You call a BBS to pig out on the software, right? Well if you have a hankering for that kind of hog heaven, then call STAND. Six Gigabytes, 85,000 files. This includes 13,000 EPS art clips, five CDs (BBS in a Box, Giga-Rom, two Educorp, and one for Windows). A Hurdler HQS quad port connects the four hi-speed lines to the 21-Mb Performa 600 equipped with a Daystar 50-Mhz accelerator and FPU.

Don't need any files? Then check out any of the 400 OneNet and FidoNet conferences on the STAND. Local Conferences included Online football and Rochester Talks. Other local conferences include areas for Windows and Apple II users, as well as folders for the two user groups who use the board for member communications. Not surprisingly, with Rochester, NY being the home of Walter Rauschenbusch, the famous 19th-century proponent of the "social gospel" movement, the board contains its own local Christian conference. There are additional OneNet Christian conferences via Servant BBS. Not a few Bible files and study aids are available for download, too. Another section, "Your Conferences" provide boardless sysops an opportunity to manage their own sections of the STAND. Paul Froelich and Carl Smith, for example, bill their section as Paul and Carl Productions and administrate several conferences covering pets of the world(!), boating, music, television, sky diving and, talks. The "talks" folder's subtitle was "arguments" but was empty. I wonder if they mean the "'no they're not'...'yes they are'" variety of argument? Why not add an Abuse section ala the Monty Python skit where a vacuous, coffee-nosed, malodorous pervert of an administrator can freely accuse users of being heaps of snot-faced, festering gobs of parrot droppings. Maybe not.

Ready to add a HoloGate FirstClass Gateway in mid-November, STAND should support Internet mail and newsgroups by the time you read this. Pricing for Internet access will be $2 per hr. with a surcharge of $1 per Mb of attached file enclosures. Membership costs $29/yr. that includes free scanning and color banner services for members. Western NY's longest run-

ning Macintosh BBS, **Mac's Last Stand** is more than hanging in there. **(716) 247-9056** bbs; (**716**) **247-7084** voice support.

ATTENTION MAC SYSOPS

Pets of the world? How about Mr. Ed! If you have a Macintosh-based BBS let us know who you are and what you think you're doing that makes your menagerie so special, even if it talks back to you. To make things easy, mail a diskette containing your user program with a preset account, time allotment and password to the address below so I can log on and take a look around your animal farm. Also include a text-file that describes your board and any bovine places on it you think are the cat's meow. I'll try to visit as many boards as possible and write about the most interesting ones I can find. **MAC BBS**, 2069 Highland Drive, Concord, CA 94520.

Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail Bill at: **wk05156@worldlink.com**

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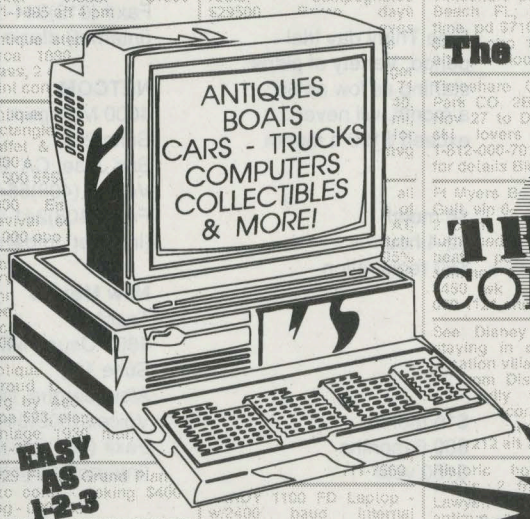

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(internet) info@cic.net

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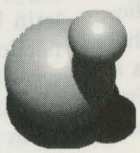
UUCP service gives your BBS users access to Internet e-mail and USENET conferences. UUCP service can be set-up as soon as the next business day!

Domain name service (DNS) gives your board a custom Internet address similar to "something.com". Domain names take up to 2 weeks to be registered.

An individual HoloNet account is required before adding UUCP and DNS service. All regular HoloNet rates apply.



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THE INTERPEDIA - MORE THAN JUST AN INTERNET ENCYCLOPEDIA

by Robert Neville and Douglas Wilson

"I hope that the Interpedia will become the Encyclopedia Galactica of my dreams."
Michael S. Hart, Director, Project Gutenberg, November 17, 1993

Who can deny that the Internet is hard to use? We have all gnashed our teeth, and most of us have gnashed them many times.

It's not only the unresponsive Telnet sites (... it says in the book that you can ...) or the dreaded trees of Gopher menus, or even the joys of UNIX. The real problem is much bigger. There's probably a terabyte of good stuff out here. Finding any particular piece of information can take a lifetime. Often seems that way anyway.

In late October a mailing list was established to discuss a suggestion of Rick Gates (he's the Internet Hunt guy) that an encyclopedia be established on the Internet.

But the idea rapidly exploded into something much bigger than some kind of Britannica on line. In a classic display of Internet synergy, participants soon realized that the idea of an encyclopedia could provide a solution to the terabyte-of-good-stuff problem.

The idea emerging is this: an Interpedia would be much more than just a set of references. It would ultimately organize all of the information on the Internet.

This Interpedia interface itself is the heart of the project: users requesting Interpedia items would receive information customized to their own preferences. Client software would accept the user's own statement of preferences, but would also collect data and make predictions on future user preferences. This feature would make the Intepedia a remarkable educational tool, allowing both young people and adults to specifythe level of material required.

Users would move from articles on topics, with alternative views just a keystroke away, to related newsgroups, to electronic meeting places, to pre-filtered library resources, and even to visual and aural examples.

Those familiar with Project Gutenberg will be interested to know that contact has already been established between these clearly complementary visions. Project Gutenberg has recently offered technical assistance and some resources to the new project.

It's a remarkable vision for those weary from the Internet trenches. And, of course, it's a big project. Things are moving very fast. Discussion on data collection and software design is going on now.

If you are interested you can contact the Interpedia mailing list at **interpedia-request@telerama.lm.com** (include word subscribe in message)

If you subscribe, you will receive a daily message digest which conveniently includes all the important Interpedia discussion of the previous day in a single post.

Those who like to follow newsgroups might want to check out news.groups for discussion of the proposed newsgroup **comp.infosystems.interpedia**. Voting on the formation of this group will take place during the month of January.

Who knows, maybe we'll learn to love that terabyte yet!

FX UUCICO - NEW DOS UUCICO PROGRAM AVAILABLE

A substantial portion of domain name system electronic mail doesn't actually originate on the Internet per se, but rather is connected to it at some point using the Unix to Unix Copy Program or UUCP. And increasingly, DOS based callers as well as bulletin boards, are using this UUCP connection to intermittently dial an Internet site for mail. UUCP is actually a set of programs on a UNIX system to perform this function. And the one program that actually does the dialing is titled the Unix to Unix Copy In Copy Out program or UUCICO.

In the DOS community, while there are an increasing number of programs to do mail in various ways, either from DOS or Windows, all seem to rely on a relative handful of UUCICO implementations for the DOS platform. By far the most popular is Thomas Dell's Waffle UUCICO. Waffle is actually a somewhat plain looking BBS software program with fairly powerful facilities for handling mail and USENET news groups. And it is available for both DOS and UNIX platforms with source code.

Mr. Dell developed the UUCICO program for Waffle from public domain sources, and in the spirit of the PD movement, allows the Waffle UUCICO to be freely distributed (not the entire Waffle BBS package, just the UUCICO.EXE and its documentation). As a result, by far the majority of DOS mail programs for the global Internet rely on this little program to actually dial the modem and deliver the mail.

But Jorge Cwik is developing a direct replacement for the Waffle UUCICO that we found fascinating largely in that it is half the size, twice the speed, and directly compatible with the Waffle version. Titled FX UUCICO, this program is currently being freely distributed as a Version 0.3 beta release in the file name FXUC03B.ZIP - released in August of 1993.

Cwik lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina and has been a freelance programmer for some time. He started writing programs on the Atari 800 and as a result, learned that size and speed do indeed count. Most of the Internet connections in Argentina are actually systems that dialup host sites in the United States to do UUCP mail exchanges. As a result, every second of connect time is very costly. So he tried to create a DOS UUCICO that would minimize this expensive connect time. (Have we heard this story before?) His FX UUCICO was written in Borland's Turbo C, but with a number of assembly language subroutines to reduce size and increase speed. The resulting program is very small, and very fast.

The attraction here is really that if you are using Waffle UUCICO, you don't have to do anything at all. You can copy the UUCICO.EXE from FX UUCICO over the top of your existing

UUCICO.EXE. No systems files, permits, dialers, or any other configuration files need to be changed at all. But the FX version supports up to 115 kbps port speeds, 16550 UARTS, and needs no external fossil program to do this. It fully supports variable block and windows sizes, and appears from our testing to do it quite flawlessly.

With the Waffle UUCICO.EXE version, we routinely acheived file transfer rates of between 800 and 1200 cps on uncompressed files over a 14,400 kbps V.32bis connection. With the FX version literally dropped into the same configuration and test platform, transferring the same files, we saw uncompressed files move as high as 3500 cps with our own PIMP program connected to the FX UUCICO - over twice as fast.

FXUC03B.ZIP is available for ftp from **oak.oakland.edu**, and halcyon.com and from many bulletin boards, including the Boardwatch BBS at **(303)973-4222** in the Internet file area. Jorge Cwik can be reached at **jorge@laser.satlink.net**. They also have an information server at **fx-dist@dogear.spk.wa.us.** The program is currently "freely" distributed but described as neither shareware nor freeware. We're not sure what the future status of FX UUCICO will be, but it is a superb improvement over earlier UUCICO versions available for the DOS platform. According to Cwik, the UUCICO will probably remain freeware, and they plan release of a full UUCP package in the future. Jorge Cwik, Presidente PERON 1963 9E, 1040 Buenos Aires, Argentina; **(54-1)953-2724** voice; Internet: **jorge@satlink.net.**

WILDUUCP - INTERNET GATEWAY FOR WILDCAT! BBS

As reported in a recent issue, Mustang Software Inc. had announced an optional package to connect Wildcat! bulletin boards to the Internet via a UUCP connection. Titled wcUUCP, the product was introduced in November, 1993 at an introductory price of $99 - now $299.

But one of Mustang's strongest third party software developers is Online Computer Resources, Inc. of Benicia, California. Most noted for their Wildmail utilities to connect Wildcat! bulletin boards to FidoNet, the company released a new product this past December titled WILDUUCP that performs the same UUCP gateway function, and very well may do a better job of it - priced at $139.

The program comes with its own install program that attempts to make sense of the "getting connected maze" and does a pretty good job of it. It does use the Waffle UUCICO to actually make the connection to the Internet host and pass mail. But the integration with Wildcat!'s message is pretty thorough and the package offers some interesting features. Both private mail and USENET news groups are supported. It will automatically UUENCODE and UUDECODE large messages as file attachments.

An "AutoResponse" feature allows you to establish an address that anyone can send e-mail to and receive a reply containing any file you designate. In this way, you can set up an info-server to dispense product information for example. The program also supports a Return Receipt Request. While this requires both ends of a correspondence to be using WILDUUCP, it sends a return receipt message to the sender when the recipient receives their message.

WILDUUCP offers a couple of other advantages. It appears to process mail about twice as fast as wcUUCP, but it also can gateway USENET newsgroups or mail to FidoNet style .PKT packets - allowing the BBS to act as a gateway for other bulletin boards. It also has some capabilities to act as a mailing list server.

The program is actually available for download and evaluation from the Online Computer Resources BBS. It doesn't work, but you can download it. You have to call their BBS to get a dated keyfile that allows the product to work for 30 days from the creation of the keyfile. Then it expires and doesn't again anymore. If you pay the $139 fee, you get a permanent key file. This is an innovative way to allow prospective buyers to look over the wares, but is a tad too cute for our tastes. It's software, and it's $139. Online Computer Resources, Inc., 2036 Columbus Parkway #405, Benicia, CA 94510; **(707)552-1122** voice; **(707)552-0602** BBS.

MOSAIC AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

The Holy Grail of Internetdom appears to be the Universal-Easy-Interface-to-Access-Everything-Everywhere-All-The-Time-Particularly-Right-Now. Not a clock tick passes without some University sophomore somewhere, in a flash of heavenly inspiration, deciding that the Internet is harder to use than it could be. Generally, the envisioned solution is so grand, that nothing ever actually gets coded. But hope springs eternal.

One of the better efforts is the World Wide Web and some affiliated software programs that allow you to click your way around a world full of information, photos, video clips, and hypertext we found a little awe inspiring.

The World Wide Web, which you may also see referred to as WWW or W3, was developed in Geneva Switzerland at the CERN research center as part of an effort to allow resident physicists to share the results of their work in a kind of electronic peer review/publishing process. The work was started in 1989 by computer specialist Tim Berners-Lee.

WWW is based on the model of Hypertext. Hypertext has generally been much touted, and little used in the computing community, but it does have some allure. It is text that is heavily cross-referenced or "linked" allowing you to read an article, and jump to a related topic in encyclopedic fashion. WWW is a global hypertext system allowing links not only between different documents, but different documents on different systems, and indeed different documents on different systems on different continents. The links can further be made to newsgroups, telnet services, gophers, archie and other Internet resources. And finally, the links or documents don't have to be textual at all, they can as easily be to a digitized image, audio sound file, or video clip.

The basic hypertext text file navigation can actually be done by telnet and there are several sites you can telnet into to browse about the web:

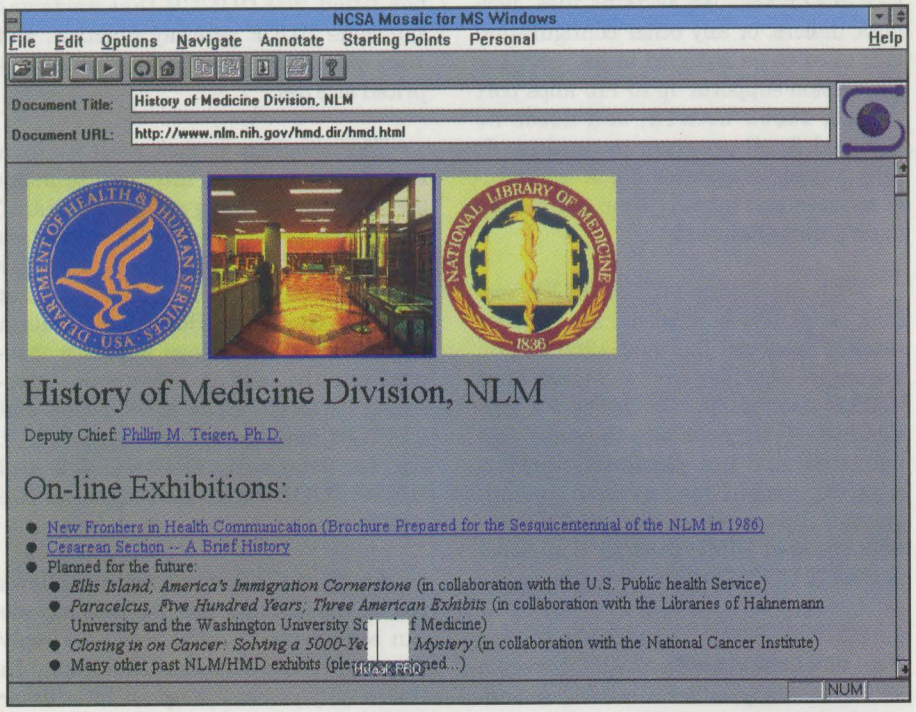
info.cern.ch
fatty.law.cornell.edu
ukanaix.cc.ukans.edu
www.njit.edu
info.funet.fi

There are also some further resources about the web itself including the USENET newsgroup **comp.infosystems.www** and the mailing list at: **www-announce@info.cern.ch.**

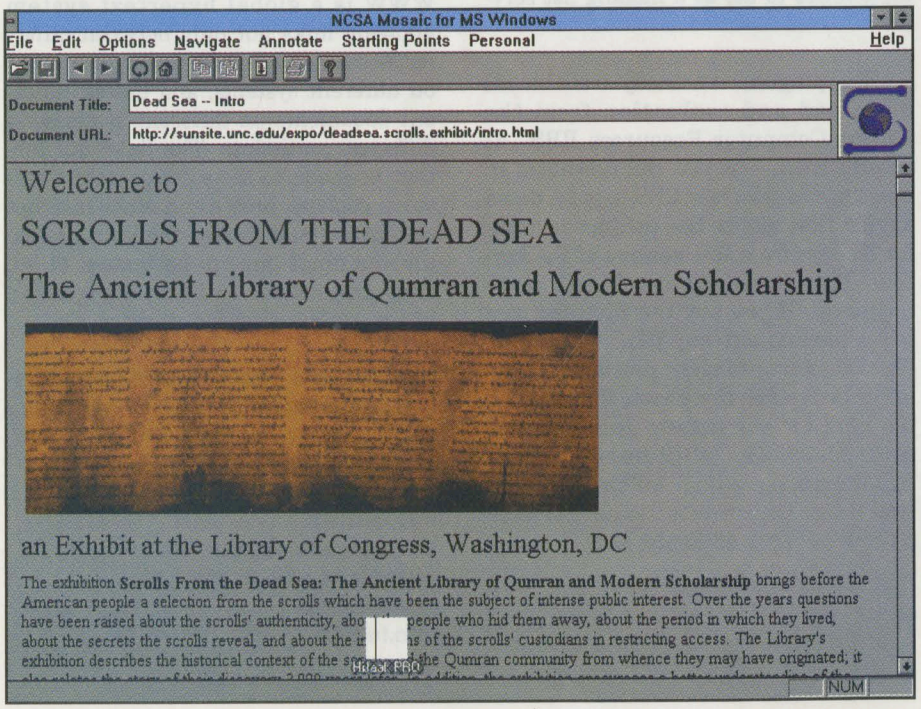
As it is from a plain VT-100 terminal using these public links into the web, the network of information you can wander around in is reasonably impressive. But the real impact doesn't come home until you've used a more visual navigation aid. A smallish group of software developers at the National Center for Supercomputer Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has taken it as a mission to develop an interface for this World Wide Web. Under the direction of Marc Andreessen, they've done well enough to garner financial support from the National Science Foundation to try to further the work.

The result is a software program titled **Mosaic**. Mosaic is a graphic interface for the World Wide Web that not only makes navigating the Internet easy, but also supports the use of other programs to view digitized images, video clips, and listen to sound files. It is currently available in versions for X-Windows, the Macintosh, and recently for the Microsoft Windows platform.

The 1.0 version of Mosaic for Windows was written by Chris Wilson and Jon Mittelhauser and released this past November. You can get it from NCSA using ftp to **ftp.ncsa.uiuc.edu.** At the **login** prompt enter **anonymous** and at the **Password:** prompt enter your mailing address. At the command prompt, enter **cd /Mosaic/Windows**. The file you want is **WMOS1_0.ZIP**. There are some subdirectories listing viewers (**LVIEW31.ZIP**) and a sound player (**WHAM131.ZIP**) that you will also need.

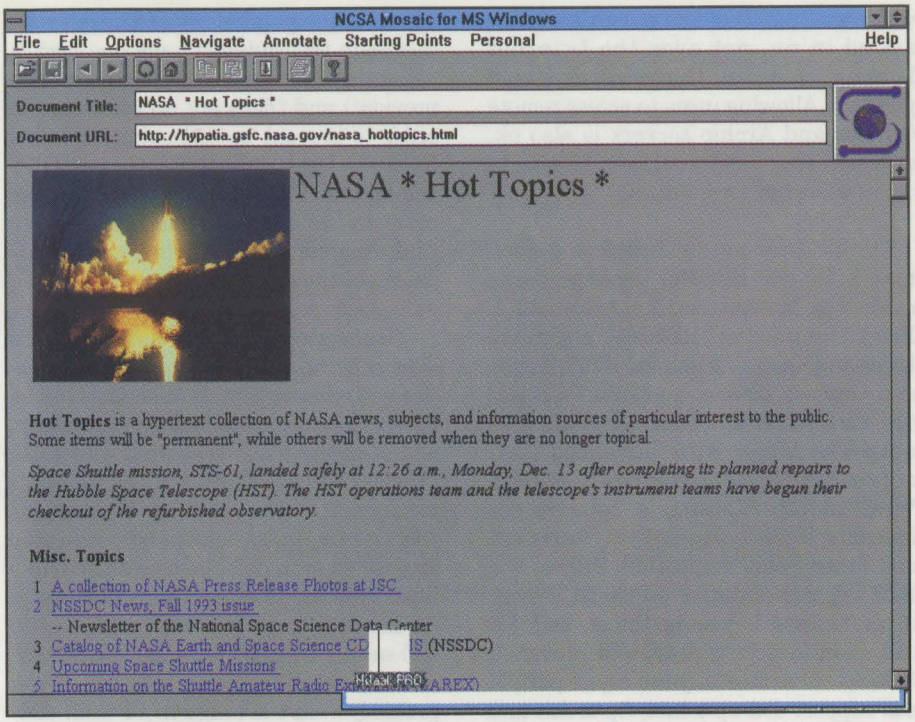


Mosaic installs in Windows reasonably easily. There is a **mosaic.ini** file where you can specify the external programs. Mosaic itself does nothing to give your PC a TCP/IP capability. It assumes you are already connected to the Internet using some TCP/IP package or another. It is compliant with the WinSock 1.1 standard for Windows programs. Winsock is a Windows Data Link Library (DLL) (**winsock.dll**) that provides TCP/IP networking under Windows, along with a standardized "socket" interface that any application program can be written to connect to. The result is an agreed method of connecting application programs to TCP/IP.



At this point, most TCP/IP packages for Windows sport their own version of **winsock.dll**. There is a shareware version of winsock titled TRUMPET available. And a company titled NetManage offers a commercial product tited **Chameleon TCP/IP for Windows** at a handsome $400 that allows you to connect to the Internet via a SLIP or PPP serial connection and provides a **windsock** interface for programs such as Mosaic.

Mosaic interfaces thru winsock.dll to communicate with World Wide Web sites. And it passes off any image file reading or sound file playing to these other shareware programs such as **LVIEW.EXE** or in some cases to existing Windows programs such as **MPLAYER.EXE** that comes with Windows. But the effect is a multimedia link to a worldwide database containing text, audio, video, and graphic images. And you can use your mouse to click your way around the planet. The overall effect is pretty stunning.



NCSA actually has a "demo page" on their system setup with links to an impressive number of world wide web sites. Simply click on this demo page from one of Mosaic's starting places and you will find a treasure chest of interesting hyperlinks. Any text in blue has a link and you can click on the text to actually connect to some other WWW site. We connected, for example, to the ExPASy Molecular Biology server and database in Geneva Switzerland and within seconds had located a fascinating graphic image of acetylcholinesterase, a chemical strongly associated with the research on Alzheimer's disease. We clicked our way to an information service on a Jamaican Bobsledding team, complete with photos of team members. We quickly located a NASA service with an incredible wealth of photos of shuttle launches, hubble telescopes, and so forth. A few more clicks and we were at a Library of Congress display covering Dead Sea Scrolls. And again, a National Library of Medicine site with information on ceaserian section, showing a historic wood cut of an early operation.

Mosaic was not flawless. We waited quite awhile for a half-megabyte video clip of the star ship Enterprise moving out of orbit. Somehow in the process of converting a very long UNIX filename to the very short 8.3 format allowed under DOS/Windows, Mosaic lost track of the truncated file name and couldn't display the clip. All too often, we were simply unable to connect to services for various reasons. And clearly all this sound file, image file, video clip display causes a 14.4 kbps serial SLIP connection to the Internet to place a strain on even the most dull-witted attention span. This type of activity ultimately requires at least an ISDN like link, and better yet, the fiber glass to the home we have heard about for years.

But the software program and a SLIP link were enough to give us a glimpse of what the online world could easily look like in the future. It makes the term "multimedia" finally mean something to us. It is entirely conceivable to really picture a global distributed encyclopedia, with information being added and modified continuously at thousands or even millions of sites faster than anyone could ever actually click a mouse to get around in it. And yes, we got a little excited - all over again. It was well worth a few hours getting Chameleon installed, Mosaic installed, and a SLIP connection working.

For further info on Mosaic for Windows, you can also retrieve some postscript files on Mosaic from the /Mosaic/mosaic-papers directory of the NCSA system, or send e-mail to **mosaic-win@ncsa.uiuc.edu**.

Cable Data: The Shape of Things to Come

by Bernard Aboba

If you've ever thought "I'd like to put my BBS on the Internet, but I can't afford it," then this article is for you.

Through the combination of cable Internet connections and the BBSNet product from Murkworks, sysops will soon be able to offer their customers the ability to use FTP, Archie and Gopher servers at remote sites on the Internet, for as little as $100/month. For reasons we shall shortly explain, it is much more expensive, though feasible, to allow people to telnet to your BBS from the Internet.

If this sounds too good to be true, hold on to your hats. Would you believe me if I told you that it will soon be possible to get a 10 Mbps connection to your desktop for less money than some of you are paying for phone bills today? That for approximately $100/month you could connect your desktop computer to the Internet day and night, and download more in a second than you could in minutes with one of those fancy V.FC modems? That these type of connections would be available nationwide within the next year?

This is the promise of Cable data, which uses the cable TV connections to transmit digital data. Today the majority of cable operators offer some kind of data service, and several cable companies are planning to offer Cable Internet in the next year. Tests are currently being conducted in Cambridge, MA (TCI and PSI), and Minneapolis, MN (Continental Cablevision), and the service is now available in Cupertino, CA.

(Hybrid Networks). Hybrid is planning to expand service to the rest of the Bay Area in 1994, and will also be offering Internet connections to cable users in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Boston, and New York. Hybrid Networks was founded in 1990 with funding from its founders and venture capitalists, as well as help from a substantial R&D contract with ARPA.Their version of Cable Internet is known as the Hybrid Access System (HAS) IN channel service.

The first thing to understand about Cable Internet is that it typically operates over an asymmetric transmission

channel. While data rates of up to 10 Mbps are achievable for incoming traffic between the cable head and the user, outgoing traffic is usually sent via a dedicated modem connection, although faster outgoing connections such as a 56 Kbps leased line or ISDN are also possible.

An alternative outgoing connection is needed because most cable service providers do not support upstream channels, and those that do usually must transmit over copper cable and can only provide 2-3 very noisy channels. Noise is a big problem for upstream channels operating over copper, since copper wire is much more susceptible to noise than fiber, and various types of noise (ingress, micro reflections, leakage, etc.) accumulate as the signal moves upstream toward the cable head. As a result, modems capable of operating over upstream cable channels are quite sophisticated and expensive, running approximately US$1,000. System upgrades such as adding upstream signal amplifiers, or rewiring with fiber optics, would allow cable operators to support two way data transmission, and some already have this capability. How quickly other cable operators follow suit depends on whether they feel they can justify the extra cost based on end-user demand.

As with satellite links, asymmetric cable Internet connections will appeal to those who receive much more traffic than they transmit. People who receive news feeds, or use multi-media browsers such as NCSA Mosaic, or are heavy users of the various FTP archives will fit into this category. BBS sysops may or may not, depending on what services they offer.

Remember: since you have 10 Mbps incoming peak capacity, but possibly as little as 14.4Kbps going out, you will not be able to allow users to telnet into your system using Cable Internet. This is because when more than one of those users tries to download, the packets will have to travel from your BBS out over the 14.4 Kbps outgoing Internet connection, which will saturate. You also will not be able to set up your BBS as an FTP archive, for the same reason.

However, you will be able to allow dialin users to download a file via FTP. These users will not have a problem, since the packets from the remote FTP host will come in over the 10 Mbps cable link. When they download the retrieved file to their home machine, their packets will travel out over the phone line they dialed in on, not over the Internet hookup, so again, there will not be a problem. Allowing users to access remote Gopher and Archie servers is also ok, although your BBS would not be able to act as a Gopher server itself.

Cable Internet is therefore a good match for the BBSNet package being readied by Murkworks, Inc. According to Brad Clements, "BBSNet supports Incoming/Outgoing telnet, FTP/Archie, and Gopher. BBSnet supports PCBoard (/M version required for incoming Telnet), The Major BBS (advanced LAN option required for incoming Telnet), WildCat!IM (Version 4 require for incoming Telnet), Searchlight, TurBoard and other Fossil compatible BBSes. If a BBS can run on top of a FOSSIL driver, it can support incoming Telnet, and if it can execute a DOS door, and provide a FOSSIL interface to your async port, it can support dial-up telnet, ftp/archie and gopher."

As with other cable data services, Cable Internet requires a specialized set-top box, which Hybrid calls a "Remote Link Adapter." This is basically a router, but it is much easier to set up than the average router, since all you have to do is plug the cable hookup and the modem cable into one end, and connect your Ethernet Thin-net cable to the other end. You also have connect the modem cable to your modem, and plug it into a phone line, but you won't need to figure out the modem initialization string, since Hybrid can download this into the Remote Link Adapter remotely. Downloading this string into your adapter, as well as the rest of the adapter configuration, is accomplished without any intervention on your part, using a cable channel reserved for this purpose. It is also possible for the service provider to diagnose problems remotely; about the only time you would have to bring the adapter in for service is if it was not tuned correctly. Of course, you will still have to setup your TCP/IP software, and your local area network, and perhaps a BBS add-in package such as BBSnet, and as we all know, this is not always a piece of cake.

Although a single Cable Internet channel can be shared by up to 200-300 people, since the traffic is one way from the cable head to the end-user, this is not a "multiple access" medium in the Ethernet sense. Each station merely listens for traffic meant for them, and receives it when appropriate; since there is no upstream transmission, only one host is using the medium at a time (the service provider) and there are no collisions. In order to prevent eavesdroping, Hybrid's Remote Link Adapter utilizes DES encryption. This encryption only applies between the cable head and the Remote Link Adapter, so it is completely transparent to the end-user.

Since the 10 Mbps bandwidth is shared by up to 200-300 people, in practice you will not be able to sustain the 10 Mbps peak transfer rate for very long, and in any case it is likely that your cable provider will only have a T1 or 1.5 Mbps connection to the Internet. This means that the 10 Mbps peak transfer rate only applies to transfers between the cable head and the end-user, and that users ftp'ing to site such as oak.oakland.edu will see T1 transfer rates at best. Due to other network traffic, in most cases, you probably won't average more than 400-500 Kbps.

The bottleneck between the cable head and the rest of the world has other important implications. When transmitting multi-media, there is a big difference between the 10 Mbps peak transfer rates possible over cable, and the 1.5 Mbps attainable over a T1 link. As a result, multimedia service providers will probably want to colocate at the cable head. Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) is being looked at as a possible means of linking cable heads together, but whether this will be economically viable depends on end-user demand. Aside from the utility for cable Internet purposes, such ATM links between cable heads would also allow for game players in one city to interact with players in another city.

Even assuming that you can only get effective transfer spedds of 400-500 Kbps, you are still doing a whole lot better than a 14.4 Kbps modem connection, especially when you consider the price. Hybrid Networks charges approximately $100/month for their IN channel service, which includes a dedicated dialin port for the modem. The $100/month price applies only to users requiring a single IP address, although Hybrid also offers connections for networks, so that you can hook up an office or an entire laboratory at a school. In addition to the monthly fee, you will also need to purchase a Remote Link Adapter (RLA), which costs $1495. The model 100 RLA connects to your com-

puter via an Ethernet port, and there is also a model 200, which plugs into an S-Bus slot on a Sun workstation.

To put this into perspective, a T1 level connection (1.5 Mbps) typically runs at least $4,000/month, which includes both the service provider fee and the cost of the leased line. Cable Internet is so much less expensive because it makes use of existing cable connections, which were wired in the 1970s when costs were lower. Using a one-way transmission medium is also a big advantage, since this makes it possible to dispense with the expensive switching equipment required by the telephone system.

Since Cable Internet has a large advantage in price/performance over conventional high speed Internet connection alternatives, some have forecasted a potential market of more than US$1 Billion by 1995, which would translate to more than 800,000 users. With channels at a premium in many areas, you might wonder how it will be possible to achieve such a high usage rate. With only 200-300 people per channel, wouldn't you need a very large number of channels in every metropolitan area? By 1995 you will have Nintendo, Sega, and 3DO offering two-way high-speed compressed video as well as Microsoft and several other setop box makers such as Zenith. Given all these firms vying for channels, the competition might become something of a dogfight. Even with 500 channels, it does not seem very likely that you could get 100, or even 50 channels allocated to the Internet. The answer is that it is possible to reuse channels by breaking them into smaller and smaller cells as demand increases, similar to the way that cellular phones work.

Before signing off, I should probably also note the announcement of HOMEWorks by Zenith Communication Products, a division of Zenith Electronic Corp. HOMEWorks consists of an external modem as well as an RF modem offered as a PC adapter card. The adapter runs $495, but this does not include the cost of the service itself, which will be billed as a monthly fee. HOMEWorks comes configured with 2 channels, each of which contains 4 subnets; when the connection is first initiated, the RF modem chooses the sub-network with the least traffic to transmit over. The low price of the HOMEWorks adapter has caught the eye of a few sysops, and there is some talk about using it to deliver mail and conferences within a metropolitan area, as well as to permit high speed logins.

For further information on Hybrid Networks, contact Craig S. Strachman, Manager, Marketing Communications, **Hybrid Networks, Inc.**; 20863 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 300, Cupertino, CA 95014-2116, **(408)725-3262**, fax: **(408)725-2439**, email: **css@hybrid.com**.

For more information on **BBSNet**, send mail to **info@murkworks.com**, or contact MurkWorks, Inc., P.O. Box 631, Potsdam, NY 13676, **(315)265-4717**.

[Bernard Aboba holds a part-time appointment as a Senior Research Associate at the University of California at Berkeley, and is President of MailCom, a telecommunications publishing and consulting firm in Oakland, California. His most recent book, The Online User's Encyclopedia: Bulletin Boards and Beyond, *an 832 page guide to the online world, is now available from Addison-Wesley. For further information on this article, check the MailCom FTP archive via ftp* **netcom1.netcom.com**, *get /pub/mailcom/README, or point your Mosaic browser to file://***netcom1.netcom.com/pub/mailcom/internaut/index.html**. - Editor]*

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GO NATIONWIDE WITHOUT GOING BROKE

EDUCATION LINK

by Bill Gram-Reefer

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?

If you want a peak into the future of education and communications, or want to roll up your sleeves and make it happen yourself, then pay close attention to a recent request for proposals from Pacific Bell in California. CalREN, the California Research and Education Network, is Pacific Bell's program to stimulate the development and dissemination of high-speed data communication applications. CalREN's goal is to promote the development of applications that: Improve education, in addition to the improvement of health care delivery, business and governmental processes, facilitate business development and job creation, and improve the economic competitiveness of California.

CalREN, an established trust of Pacific Bell, will promote applications development by sponsoring demonstration projects which are dedicated towards these goals. In fact, CalREN will sponsor and fund the high-speed data communications component of approved collaborative projects for six to eighteen months from project implementation. Funding is targeted for the Greater Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. In both the Northern and Southern California CalREN geographies, those areas served by GTE are excluded unless special arrangements have been made with GTE.

CalREN issued RFPs for applications involving Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) in the Greater Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Areas in September and October. This Request for Proposal (RFP) is for the solicitation of CalREN projects focused on specific educational applications. Both public and private educational organizations are eligible to apply.

Applications must include one or more of the following Pacific Bell data communication services: Switched Multi-Megabit Data Service (SMDS), Frame Relay Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), or Switched Digital Services 56 (SDS-56). Traditional residential or commercial phone service is not included in CalREN funding. Project results must be openly available to the public.

CalREN seeks collaborative projects which focus on the development of a specific educational application. Generally approved projects will be pilot or demonstration in nature. These educational applications must involve the use of high-speed data communications, benefit a broad community of users, and address one or more educational priorities including the: promotion of life-long learning environments, improvement of the quality and effectiveness of instruction and learning through the use of communications technology, use data communications to increase access to the informational, instructional and technological resources necessary to support life-long learning, facilitate the integration of communications technology into school curriculum aligned with the instructional frameworks and guidelines for each education segment.

Other preferred applications include the development of distance learning and home schooling applications which integrate voice, data and video through such data communication services as ISDN. According to the RFP, potential applications might include team teaching, tutoring, and teacher training through video teleconferencing or desktop video. CalREN also supports collaborative projects which demonstrate the educational value of high-speed Internet access. Potential Internet applications might involve curriculum development, on-line research, primary data collection, on-line mentoring of students and/or teachers and other uses. Plans for Digital library applications to increase access to educational materials and other computing resources and promote database resources are also high on Pac Bell's priority list.

CalREN hopes that new proposals will broaden the availability of online services as well as create models that show how costs can be driven down. Special consideration will be given to applications which extend the educational benefits of CalREN applications to communities that do not typically enjoy access to technology. Underserved populations might include students with learning disabilities, disabled students or students from rural or lower socioeconomic communities.

CalREN strongly encourages collaboration and cooperation in project formation. Generally, multiple organization participation is expected. CalREN seeks project participants from all segments of the education community such as public, private, K 12, post-secondary, libraries, vocational and adult education. Projects that cross these educational segments and/or link the education and other communities will be favored. Partnerships between public and private organizations are encouraged under CalREN.

CalREN plans to award at least 20 projects under this RFP. CalREN seeks to balance the distribution of these projects between the North and South geographies. Proposed projects are not subject to a monetary limit and are expected to range in size and scope. For example, one project might involve 30 to 40 ISDN lines to connect several school sites for curriculum development and home/school communications. Another might require only 4 to 5 SMDS or Frame Relay connections between educational and community service organizations to provide distance learning. CalREN will award recipients by April 15, 1994.

Project proposals for CalREN funding must be received by 5pm on March 14, 1994. Receipt of proposal submissions will be acknowledged in writing. Proposals must be limited to 15 pages in length, including the executive summary. Send five copies of the proposal to: **The CalREN Program**, c/o Pacific Bell, 2600 Camino Ramon, Room 3S-306, SanRamon, CA 94583. **CALREN@PACBELL.COM** (email); **800-CALREN7** (voice); **(510)277-0673** fax.

APPLE'S HIGHER ED GOPHER

The Apple Computer Higher Education Gopher Server is available through Internet, on a gopher server that is housed at the University

of Minnesota. This program provides an innovative solution to the challenge of maintaining ongoing communication with the higher education community.

In addition to Apple information and software, it provides a unique way (using a gopher server) for users to interact and participate in discussions for seven academic disciplines. Each discipline has a chairperson, an expert in their respective fields, who write articles every other month about technology integration in their disciplines. Dialog folders are available for each discipline to share information in: Business, Computer Science and Engineering, Library and Information Systems, Mechanical Engineering, Medical and Health Sciences, Schools of Education, and Foreign Language. Other disciplines will be added in the future.

Apple also provides information on Apple Products, Regional Marketing News, Apple Corporate News, Higher Ed Marketing Info, Macintosh Freeware and Shareware, Disability Solutions, NetNews Groups of Interest, Intellimation Software Catalog, Query Publications, and Syllabus Publications. Apple will be adding new information and services to this system on a continuing basis.

To gain access to the Apple Gopher server on Internet, you need to obtain Gopher, a client application from University of Minnesota, which may be downloaded via anonymous ftp from **boombox.micro.umn.edu** under the directory **/pub/gopher/Macintosh_Turbo_Gopher**. To download, use any ftp applications available. You also need the MacTCP driver to work with the Gopher client application.

Macintosh users need to ftp the Macintosh Turbo Gopher application "Turbo Gopher.hqx" to their local drive. Once the client application is copied, the user should decompress the application (un-binhex) with StuffIt or equivalent decompression tools. Once uncompressed, the user may launch the Gopher application and the application is configured to connect to the U of MN campus wide information system by default.

In the main "Home Gopher Server" window, the user will find "Information about Gopher" icon. This icon contains detailed description on Gopher clients and servers. Double clicking the icon will drill down and open the contents of the folder. You will find Apple's server under "Other Gopher and Information Servers... All the Gopher Servers in the world...Apple Computer Higher Education Gopher Server" path.

Apple's Higher Education Gopher server is also available at "**info.hed.apple.com**" Internet domain name address. The user may setup direct access by using the pull down menu under "File... Another Gopher Server at..." and type in "**info.hed.apple.com**" to directly access Apple's server. There are also book marks and a "setup... configure gopher preferences" menu available for automated log-on procedure. DOS or UNIX users may also retrieve the client application from **boombox.micro.umn.edu**. For more info regarding **Apple Higher Education Marketing** contact Judy Martinson at **(408) 862-7709**.

MORE ONLINE COURSES

This column's recent report of colleges offering online courses brought some enthusiastic response and so here is another way to get that diploma via the telephone lines.

Chemeketa Community College, in Salem, OR, began offering courses online in 1991. Starting with a C-Programming class, the college now offers a variety of for-credit courses online including courses in Computer Science, Technical Writing and Word Processing, English Composition, and General Psychology. Some non-credit courses are offered, as well, such as Modem Communications 0616 with Instructor Gary Halleen. As an extension of its correspondence courses, the school also is implementing a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Suppression and Fire Prevention. This opportunity gives fire fighters from remote areas the ability to enroll in a program that lets them communicate with others in their field.

Chemeketa Community College contracts the online classroom space through a local BBS, Chemeketa On-Line. Students can communicate with instructors and classmates, as well as attend cyber lectures and participate in electronic forums. Registered students are also given access to the nearly 400 other forums on the local BBS. The school hopes to have an Internet address soon and, at this writing, is waiting for its wcUUCP software to arrive. For more info contact: Janet King **(503) 769-7738** (voice).

*Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. E-mail Bill at:***wk05156@worldlink.com**

Announcing REAL TIMES (Fracterm V2.0)
Is this the Holy Grail of Online Imaging?

Check These Incredible New Features!

- Users see **formatted pages** with multiple images, columns, fonts, using Imagen's new ***RT Compress*** technology, in as little as ten seconds!
- **Internet** callers use **mouse-driven** menus to view catalogs and publications **direct** to their screens.
- ***REAL TIMES*** works with **UNIX**, OS/2, mainframes, NT, DOS, you are **not locked in** to any host software, and can upgrade at will.
- **New image formats** provided include **JPEG**, GIF, PCX, TIFF, TGA, BMP, WMF, WPG, DIB, EPS, DCX, PICT

"When it comes to online viewing the best method I have seen is implemented by Imagen."
Jim Thompson, Boardwatch Magazine

REAL TIMES*™** is **freeware** for your callers. **Database images** are displayed quickly and **clearly,** with associated files. ***REAL TIMES works with most BBS host software, and **makes Internet nodes friendly.** It's a whole new medium-**publications, real estate, art, travel, personnel, news services**-that you can add without disrupting your established menus. See us at **CeBIT '94!**

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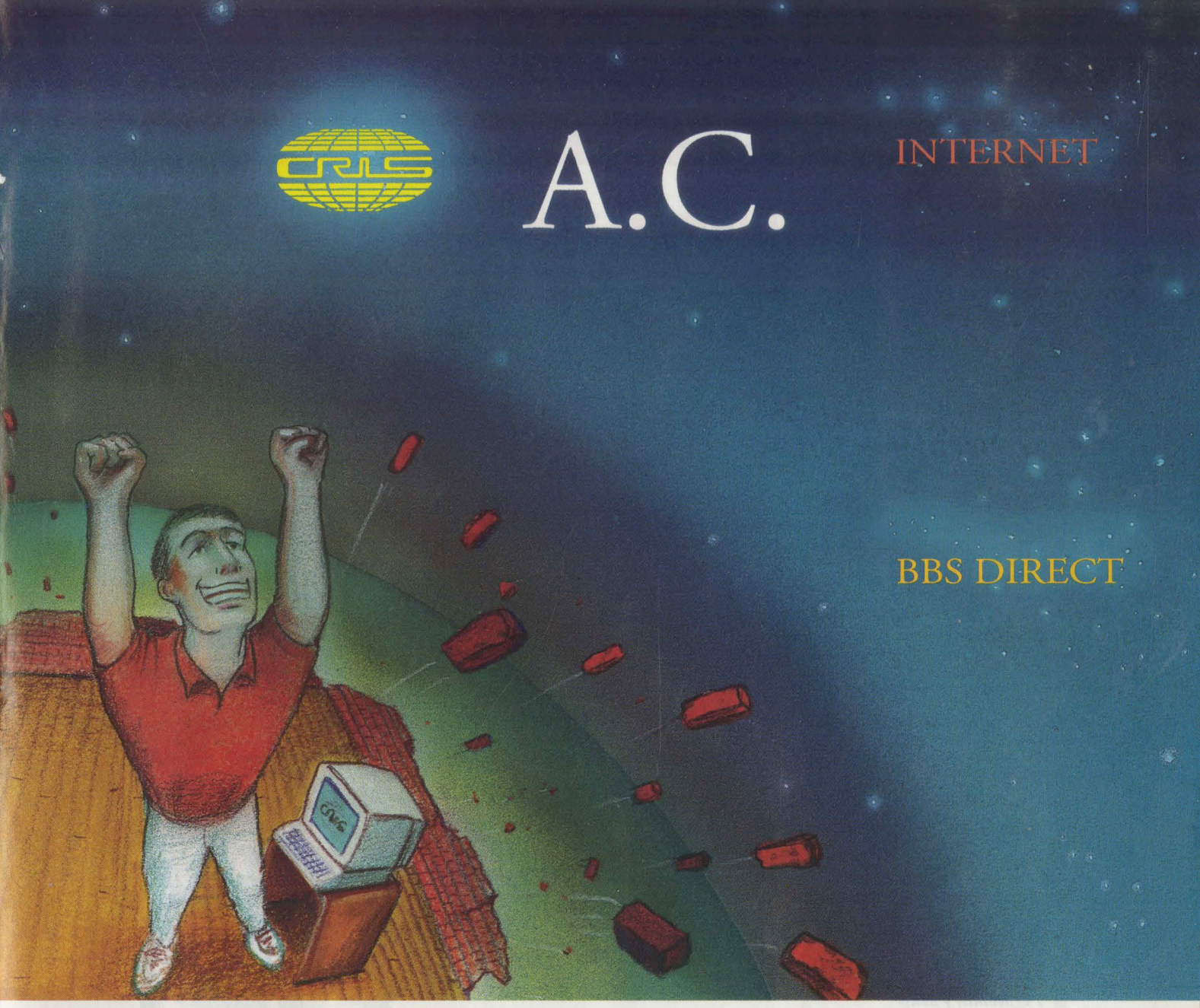

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- CALL 1-517-895-0510
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS TO JOIN CRIS.
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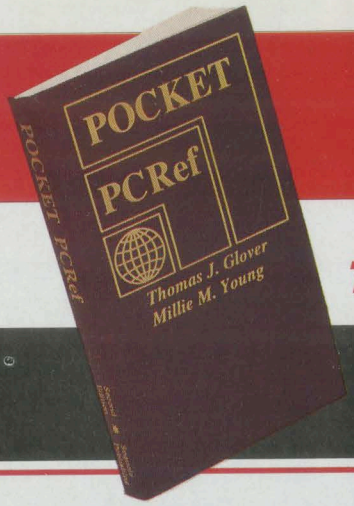
- DIAL THAT NUMBER, AT CONNECTION TYPE @D, THEN PRESS ENTER, AFTER TERMINAL = PROMPT, PRESS ENTER AGAIN, AT THE @ PROMPT, TYPE C CRIS.
- WELCOME TO CRIS!

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, CALL US. **1-800-745-CRIS**



Here it is!

The Biggest Little Book in the World

Pocket PCRef

"It's MY book - it stays on MY desk, and the rest of you guys keep your cotton pickin hands off it."

That's how it started. The fight ended with a copy of Tom Glover's Pocket PCRef on EVERYBODY's desk at Boardwatch, but they still tended to "travel" a bit. So we decided to order a few CASES of them and offer them to our readers.
Why did this little book cause such a stir? First, it has a very simple thing going for it. It's a little bitty book - pocket sized. We don't actually carry them around in our pocket ,but it can sit on the desk without taking much space ,you can drop it into a briefcase and again, it's almost not there. But authors Tom Glover and Millie Young have piled more tabular information on personal computers into this little book than anything like it we've found. It's the kind of information you only need once in awhile (couple times daily around here), but when you need it - you need it pretty badly - and preferably without a search through the lost ruins of Egypt in the back room. In 496 pages -

DOS Command reference - all of them through version 6.0 - some 200 pages.
DOS History - release dates, file sizes, the works.
PC Industry Phone Book - a little over 3500 telephone numbers of companies prominent in the personal computer industry. That gets thumbed a bit.

Hard Disk Configuration Data - ever lose your CMOS? You're hard disk disappears. All your data is there, and you can easily get it back, if you can just remember how many heads, how many cylinders, how many sectors per track, a little info on the landing zone, etc. Rub a lamp. This little book lists 2300 different drives with exactly the info you need to get back up in seconds.

- ***Hayes AT modem command set - all of it.***
- ***Keyboard scan codes - all of them.***
- ***Port and Cable pinouts for parallel printers***
- ***Hardware Interrupts and I/O maps.***
- ***Software Interrupts***
- ***ASCII/Decimal/Hex/EBCIDIC***
- ***PC Memory Map***
- ***Address Maps***
- ***Printer and Plotter control codes - HPGL, HP PCL5, Epson LQ860 - dozens of others.***
- ***Error codes***
- ***DMA Channels***
- ***Video Scan Frequencies***
- ***Pinouts for everything in your PC.***

Jack Rickard

Plus product support bulletin board lists and in this 3rd addition, we talked them into including the Boardwatch Magazine Reader's Choice top 100 Bulletin Board list. This isn't light reading, it's not a "how-to" book. It's a little (3.2 X 5.4 X 0.6) reference book with hundreds of little tables of information, phone numbers, and conversion tables. The kind of information you only need when you need it, and then you usually can't find it - or if you can, it's buried in some monster manual full of somebodies theory of how the computer industry ought to be. With this midget lookup book, you can quickly lookup the thing you need to know now. Send me $15.95 - I'll send you one of your own. And yeah, I suppose you could carry it around in your pocket if you want.

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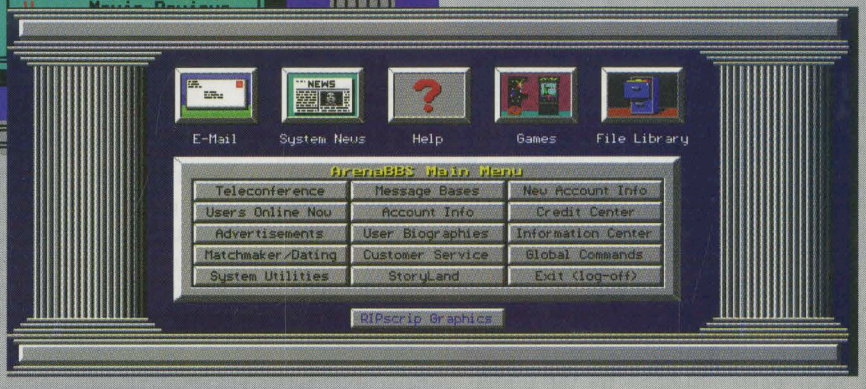

Get RIPPED!

Graphical user interfaces have been available on many different computer systems for years. But until now, you haven't been able to get a bulletin board system with a GUI unless you used a proprietary solution. Until now. RIP*scrip* (Remote Imaging Protocol script language) is a published specification developed by TeleGrafix supported by over twenty-five leading vendors on the PC, Macintosh, and Unix platforms. Any on-line system that can display a text menu can use RIP*scrip*. Chances are that your favorite BBS has RIP*scrip* support built in.

RIP*draw*™

RIP*draw* is the entry level RIP*scrip* graphics creation package. Designed for recreational system operators and the telecommunicator, RIP*draw* is perfect for creation of stunning on-line graphics at a low price – ~~$49~~. • *Special - $35* •

RIP*aint*™

RIP*aint* is a graphical drawing environment designed for creating menus and screens to supplement or replace a host's existing menus. Integrated tools for creation of clickable buttons, creation and use of bitmap icons, and optimization of files makes this a powerful tool for creating a graphical user interface for your system at an affordable price – $200.

RIP*scrip* Graphics are supported by these bulletin board systems:

The Major BBS (Galacticomm)	PCBoard (Clark Development)	Synchronet (Digital Dynamics)
NovaLink Professional (ResNova)	Remote Access (Wantree)	TBBS/TDBS (eSoft)
Osiris XLT (Int'l TeleCom)	Searchlight (Searchlight Software)	Wildcat! (Mustang Software)

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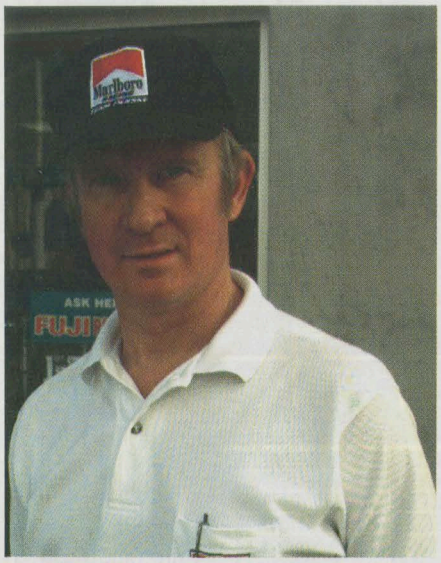
GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

ONLINE GRAPHICS OFFER MORE IN 1994

By Jim Thompson
Western News Service



The new year promises to see several breakthroughs for on-line graphics and photo imaging for the BBS world. Judging by the plans from the leading players in this arena, 1994 will be the year when photo transfer and high quality graphics break loose from their limitations and truly begin to define and sculpt the future of the online world.

Here is a run-down of some of the new things to look forward to from TeleGrafix Communications, Inc., Imagen, Inc., Durand Communications, Inc. and Hamilton Telegraphics, Inc..

(Please note that these products are "works in progress" and there is no guarantee that the released versions will contain all the features reported here.)

TELEGRAFIX COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

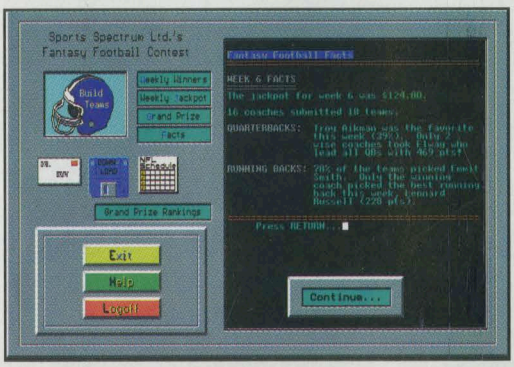
TeleGrafix Communications has been hard at work improving their already widely used and high regarded RIP protocol and RIPterm terminal program.

RIP Version 2.0 will include a host of new features when it is released "in the first quarter of 1994," according to Jim Bergman of TeleGrafix, Communications, Inc.

The new specification for this protocol will include Resolution Independence and 24-bit color support.

"Resolution Independence means that we will not be tied down to any particular resolution. The files will be created in a format that will make them independent of the display hardware. This means you can use anything from the existing 640 x 350 EGA to 1224 or beyond. The software will display the image at whatever resolution your system is capable of," notes Bergman.

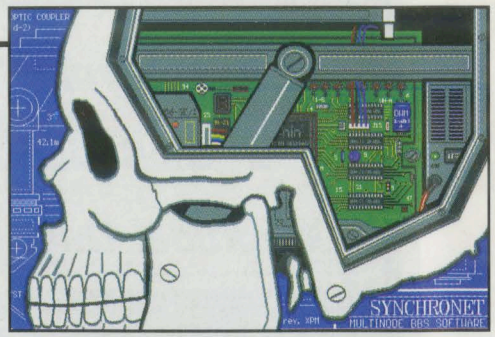
Support for 24-bit color will mean a major improvement in this already very impressive language. Bergman also points out that under RIP once a color is set, all drawing is done in this color until it is changed. This keeps the commands, and consequently, the transmission times, very short.



RIP screen showing the blending of text and graphics

Another new feature of RIP 2.0 will be sound support. "This will allow for the ability to play digitized sound, like WAV or MIDI files. Since the current band-width does not allow for the transmission of the existing formats, the sound files will likely already exists on the caller's end and the host will send a command to play-back those sounds," Bergman says.

He adds that they are "looking into the ability to transmit sounds, for example, MIDI files. In this case, you are just transmitting the notes, based on a certain instrument. So, you can transmit sounds almost real time. But this only works for music, not for voice."



RIP screen showing complicated graphic

The new version of RIP will also have the ability to transmit and display images like JPEG, GIF and TIF. Jim says this ability is the number one most requested feature.

Improved font capabilities will be added, "so people can do more page layout types of things. This would allow for things like an on-line newspaper," he notes.

Multi-windowing will allow several windows on the screen at one time and allow the host system to send commands and make updates to only one window at a time while the others remain unchanged.

The best news from TeleGrafix Communications is that RIP version 2.0 will be fully compatible with previous versions of the program.

I asked Bergman if the new additions will mean slower overall performance. "The changes and additions will only have a minimal effect on the language. For example, we are now using only 2 bytes of transmitted information to specify color. When we go to 24-bit color, that will only go to four bytes. These four bytes will allow us to specify a 24-bit color. This combined with an increase in the general speed of the program means that version 2.0 will not be any slower than our existing product," he responded.

Bergman says they have no plans to release a Windows version of the terminal program (RIPterm). However, he notes that the current DOS version will run under Windows and that both Qmodem Pro and Telix have Windows products that support RIP.

"We have not established a cost for version 2.0, yet. But for our existing customers, our history and policy has always been to make the upgrade fee, nominal. For example, when we came out with version 1.5, version 1.0 owners could upgrade for $25. We will continue with this policy and make the upgrade fee nominal," Bergman says.

IMAGEN, INC.

Imagen, Inc. is the only on-line image system that is using Fractal compression. This technology is, in my view, still the best method for transferring high quality images via modem. It produces extremely small file sizes (as small as 5k) yet maintains extremely high quality.

Best of all, because of the math based algorithm employed by fractals, the images are resolution independent. Resolution independence means the photos or images can be enlarged to any size and they will maintain their original quality. Even projected, the fractal images are smooth, clean and remarkably crisp. (See Boardwatch, July, 1993 for a review of Fracterm and a full explanation of fractal compression)

I have been using the Imagen, Inc. system for over a year now and I still am amazed every time I see the images.

Dwight Jones, CEO of Imagen, Inc. says the next release of Fracterm (version 1.5) will add a number of new features including better printer emulation function, improved modem support, and improved dialing and download directory functions.

"We have also re-worked the download engine to a considerable degree. It is a lot more 'laid-back' which is to say it is more stable and understanding. It will more easily integrate into certain bulletin board systems. In the past, some operators of PCBoard experienced occassional problems with our product. PCBoard operators will find our new product not only easy to use but also very stable," says Jones.

Version 1.5 will also be adding support for other image formats. According to Dwight Jones, they will add both decompression and conversion for JPEG, GIF, TGA, PCX , WMF, WPG, DIB, EPS, PICT, GIF, BMP and TIF formats. "This will allow a caller to view any of these image format files, received from any BBS, without shelling out or switching to another program," Jones says.

With some restrictions, version 1.5 of Fracterm will allow one not only to view each of these formats but also to covert between formats. This ability will give system operators a wide variety of choices and flexibility. A sysop could post both a fractal image along with a JPEG or GIF file. When received, Fracterm will uncompress and/or display the images immediately. The program will also be a valuable tool as an "off-line" viewer of images.

The plans also call for full support of TeleGrafix's RIP version 2.0. This combination of full-color graphics and high quality, resolution independent photographs could make Fracterm a true star of 1994.

Fracterm capture showing display of FIF files on Marlboro Racing News

Their one problem may be the continued ignoring of the Macintosh market. Many of those serious about graphics and photo-realistic reproductions are using a Macintosh based system. To neglect offering a terminal program for this segement of the computer world could be a mistake in the long term.

One of the more exciting projects being tackled by Imagen, Inc. is the transfer and display of fractal images over the Internet. Ron Estrin, senior programmer for Imagen, Inc., is very close to making this a reality. During preliminary testing in early December, he had successfully transferred the Fracterm menu structure (CONFIG. BBS file) which triggers the image viewing function and decompression

Fracterm capture showing display of JPEG, PCX and FIF images

engine of the terminal program. "Transferring the fractal images (FIF files) should not present any major problems and we should have it working very soon," Jones says.

The prospect of being able to send high quality graphics via the Internet is exciting, indeed. Whether it is Imagen, Inc., Durand Communications, Hamilton Telegraphics or anyone else, the the addition of high quality, full-color images and photographs, will make this world-wide electronic highway through cyberspace a true dynamic link to the world.

Version 1.5 of Fracterm is slated for release by the end of December, 1993 which means it should be available by the time you read this article.

Another exciting project for Imagen, Inc. is the development of a new compressed fax file format. This new technology would be incorporated in Fracterm version 2.0 which will re-emerge under the name of "Real Times." The new fax format would be an "RTC" format as compared to the "RTF" format currently used for the transfer of a document via a fax modem or internal fax board.

The new format would produce a file size that is up to 80 percent smaller than the same file in RTF format. Typically, an RTF file is about 30k in size. Under RTC, this same file would be only 6k in size. Best of all, the RTC format allows for high qualtity, 256-color images. This could finally mean an end to the blurred, hard-to-read black-and-white faxes that curl off on that awful paper.

Another big advantage to RTC over RTF results from it being a hybrid file instead of a single element or, essentially, a picture of a document. The

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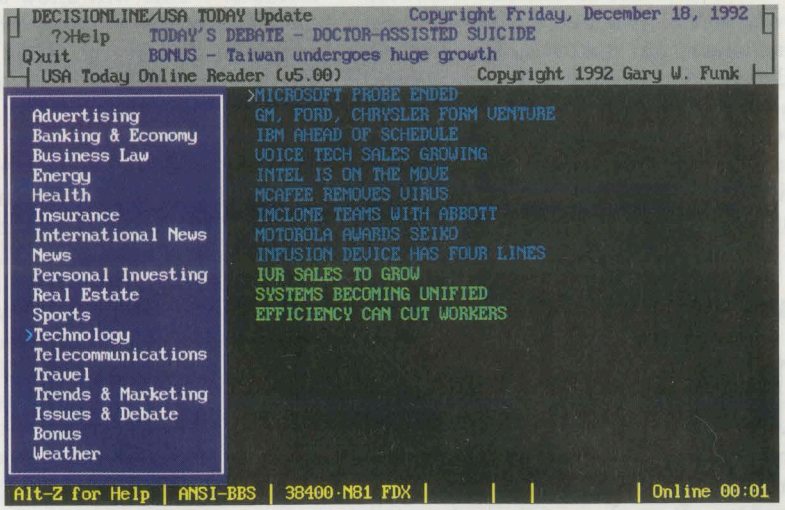
USA Today Door for PCBoard



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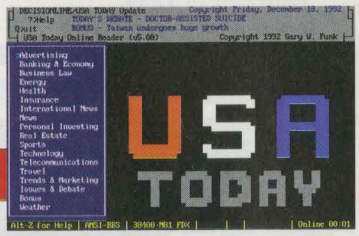
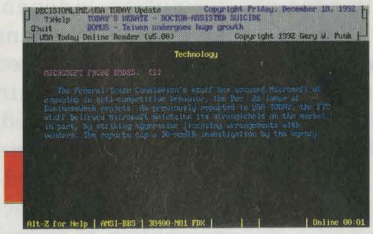
To order the USA Today Door for PCBoard at just $99, contact Gary Funk, Boardwatch Magazine, (303) 973-6038

Call Today!





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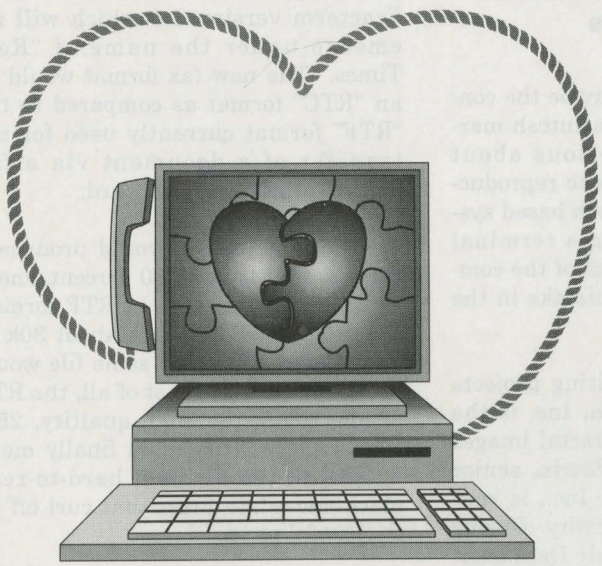

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Dallas, TX	(817) 354-8880
Washington, DC	(703) 931-4902
Denver, CO	(303) 232-5523
Houston, TX	(713) 480-4466
Los Angeles, CA	(714) 895-5862
New York, NY	(516) 231-6966
Richmond, VA	(804) 270-0502
Del Mar, CA	(619) 224-6363
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RTC would be a combination of a fractal (FIF file) or JPEG for the graphics and pure text for all the written material. This means that the text can be edited and/or searched.

Real Times version 2.0 will include RTC and all the features of Fracterm version 1.5. Imagen will make the the RTC specification available to other programmers. According to Dwight, "We will be licensing DLL's and Objects in a developer's package. We would distribute a DLL that is OLE 3.0 compatible." He adds that "anyone writing fax or terminal software who is interested in this technology, should call Imagen, Inc. for details."

HAMILTON TELEGRAPHICS, INC.

Seth Hamilton continues to be one of the visionaries in the on-line graphics arena. His clear view of the future of bulletin boards combined with his skills as a programmer makes **RoboBoard/FX** the system to watch. Presently, Seth is making some exciting changes and additions to his already feature-rich BBS (See Boardwatch, December, 1993 for a full review of RoboBoard/FX).

The new additions include, "the ability to display images, like JPEGs, as easily as using vectors for the display of graphic images. The plan is to store these images on the user's computer. Along with this would be the ability to have such material expire after a certain period of non-use," Hamilton says.

Hamilton Telegraphics, Inc. is also releasing an Internet/Usenet tool called RoboUUCP. This new tool was created by Merlin Systems and is marketed by Hamilton Telegraphics. Inc.

"It will allow you to do file requests or FTP's and send and receive Internet mail. You can also enter into and recieve Usenet news groups. PageSAT support will allow for receiving a full Internet feed. It will automatically toss incoming files into file areas, UU-encode and UU-decode file attaches on messages. For the user, all this will be seemless," says Seth.

He has also put the final touches on a new file system which allows for RoboBoard/FX to query 250,000 files on virtually any type of query in 15 to 25 seconds (this is on a 486 machine).

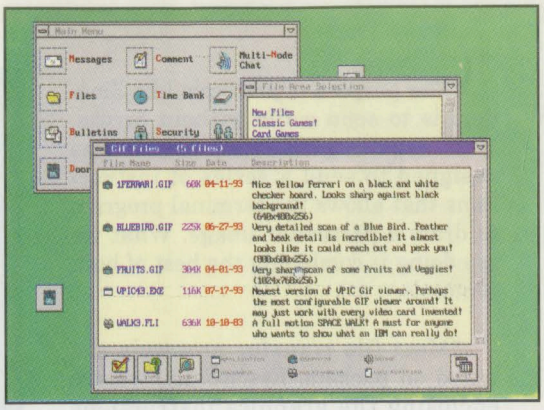
Additional features include:

1. The ability to have ten line descriptions
2. The ability to attach files to messages
3. The addition of a Fax option add-on

An interim release of the RoboBoard/FX terminal program should be available by the time this issue of Broardwatch arrives on your doorstep. Version 1.02 will add a scroll-back buffer, inform the user when he/she is out of hard drive space and/or memory and fix a number of small bugs.

The most exciting news from Hamilton Telegraphics is a complete revamping of their already excellent protocol, Tel-FX.

"The new Tel-FX will be a graphics engine that uses packets instead of a continuous stream as is the case with other protocols. This will allow us to eliminate line noise and to to 'off-load' lower level tasks like typing and the inputting of messages to the client software until it is needed on the host end. During the dead-space created by these tasks, we can transfer background or file packets,"

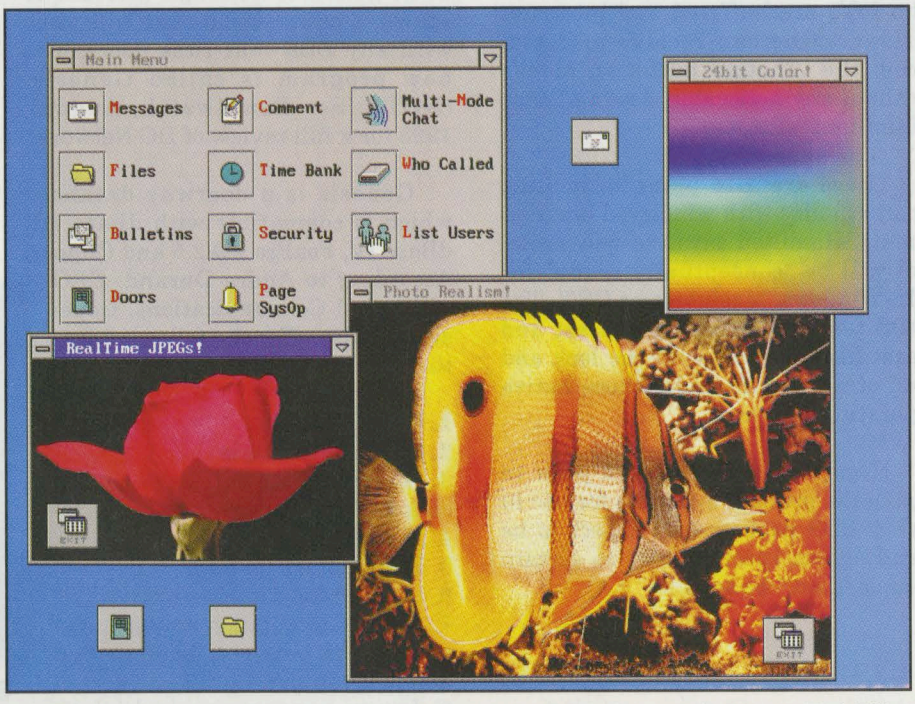


Screen capture showing floating windows under new Tel-FX Protocol

This technology will open the door to doing two things at once. For example, in a file area, you could mark several files and begin the transfer as soon as they are marked. Most of the time, a user is listing a file area, reading or entering messages, or just looking around. The result is a lot of "dead space." The new Tel-FX protocol would take advantage of this "down time" for transferring files or images. In essence, it would be an on-line, multi-tasking system.

According to Hamilton, the new protocol is based on the existing protocol but is "more packet oriented and more efficient."

I asked him to compare the new Tel-FX protocol with a protocol like Zmodem.



Screen capture showing graphics and JPEG files using new Tel-FX Protocol

"The purpose of protocols like Zmodem is to send a file without errors. Until now, a graphics protocol was designed to send a series of instructions that allows the terminal program to draw a particular image. What we are doing is combining the best of both protocols.

"Most file transfer protocols are based on packets. Essentially, we are enclosing the graphics instructions into similar packets. In the long run, our graphics protocol will be more like a file transfer protocol with a serious bi-directional twist combined with a graphics protocol which contains the tokens and instructions to draw images, set up input areas and control text input and windows."

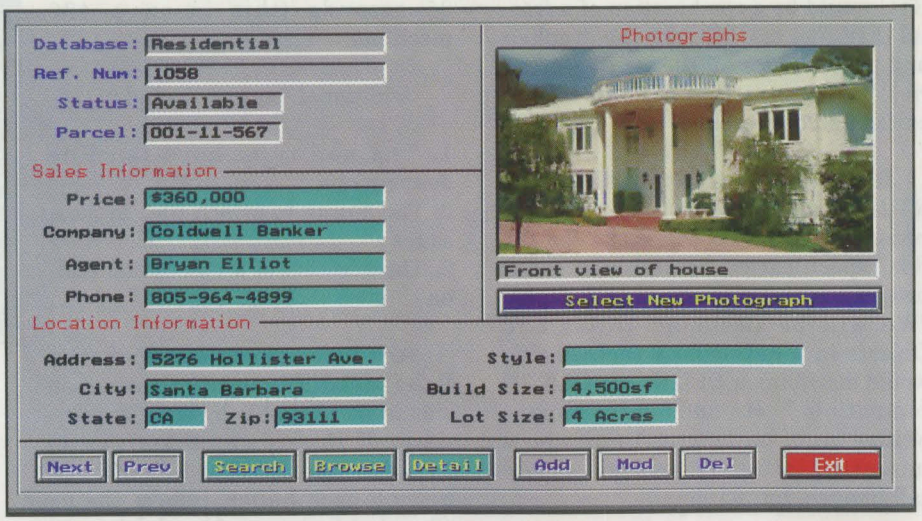
He adds that the new protocol will be backwards compatible with previous versions allowing existing graphics to be used.

Although the new protocol will be much more sophisticated than the existing one, it will reportedly not require a more robust processor.

"Actually, we have developed some more friendly windows, display routines and math routines which will make the work load on the user end a lot lighter. It should not take any more processing requirements than our present system because all the I/O's are buffered and interrupt driven. One can receive material from the inbound buffer in blocks without any noticeable slowing," says Hamilton.

There are also plans to include compatibility with windowed environments. Hamilton says the new protocol will be "conceptually ready" for MS-Windows, Macintosh or OS/2. The DOS terminal program will act and react like windows with the look and feel of a program under those native operating systems.

Hamilton says he does plan to make the protocol available for use in other BBS packages. "I expect to be sending out specifications to certain people, soon," he says.



CLASS Screen capture with photo and graphics display as would be seen when combined with RIP version 2.0 which allows for 24-bit color

DURAND COMMUNICATIONS

A number of new programs, some of them very ambitions, are part of the 1994 line-up for Durand Communications. Among their offers for the new year are a database that works with most bulletin board programs, a program that will allow TBBS operators to display photos under a TDBS application and a top secret project they call CLASS.

Durand's work with DC-Term, a database enhansement program that works with Glacticomm's The Major BBS, generated enough interest to spawn a new version that will work with any BBS that runs doors. The new program is called Genesis. (NOTE: See Boardwatch, August, 1993 for a full review of DC Network)

Genesis is a doorway database which is compatible with dBase III, dBase IV, FoxPro 2.0/2.5 and Clipper. According to Andre Durand, CEO of Durand Communications, Genesis will also offer the following features:

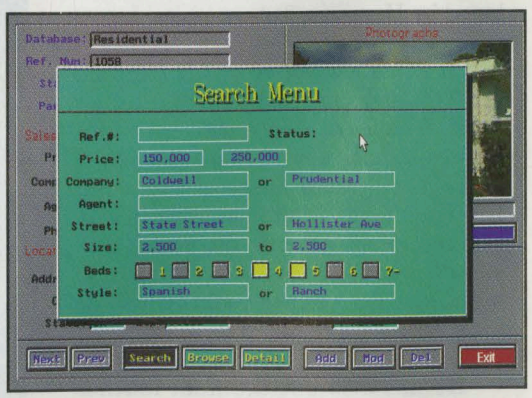
1. Relational
2. Query by example
3. Form template entry and modification of database records.
4. Mouse support
5. RipScript compatibility
6. Pick list for database entry
7. Browse to detail jumping (jump with must between browse and detailed output)
8. Image compression and image viewing (link photos to the database)

"Genesis will bring all the features of our DC Network database to almost anyone who operates a BBS. It will work with our DC Term terminal program and incorporate our current image compression and viewing capabilities. When TeleGrafix Communications, Inc. (makers of RIPaint and RIPTerm) updates their terminal specificaions to 24-bit color, it will be added to Genesis," Durand says.

Durand will reportedly offer many of the same turn-key applications available under DC Network. These include real estate sales, automobile sales database, a dating service and contact phone book.

The product is slated for release by late February and will carry a price in the neighborhood of $595.

Also planed for 1994, is an add-on to TBBS that will allow TDBS applications to use DC Term and link pho-



Search Screen for CLASS as would be seen when combined with RIP verson 2.0 which allows for 24-bit color

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tographs to a database. According to Durand, "It will allow for the linking of TDBS databases with our terminal viewing program and image viewing specs. So, you can design RipScript xBase databases and then use our terminal program to view images on-line in TDBS databases."

He adds, "photos that are linked to a TDBS database can be viewed by callers using our DC Term program." The photos are compressed using a JPEG dirative (.CMP).

Durand says the program, which at press time had no official name, will be priced "around" $395. It is scheduled for release sometime in January.

Between now and March 31, 1994, a sister company to Durand Communications, Synergy Communications, Inc. is "giving away" 100,000 copies of FILEX (File Exchange) for Win-

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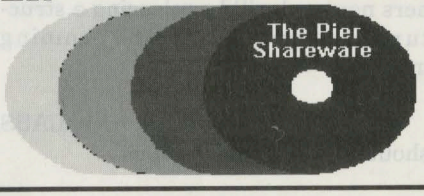

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dows (There is a charge of $9.95 for shipping and handling. Contact Synergy Communications for details).

This program allows for the moving of files and documents between two computers via modem by allowing the user to "look at" the hard disk of the remote machine.

"It has automatic, built-in compression and you don't have to worry about protocols. It automatically configures your modem and is compatible with standard communications programs."

Andre Durand sees FILEX as an alternative to the fax machine. "It is 500 percent faster than a fax machine and produces editable documents," he says.

The biggest project on the Durand drawing board is one they call CLASS (Client Access to Systems and Services).

Durand was guarded about releasing any details but he would say, "CLASS will set a new standard for on-line information services. We have signed up such clients as Ford Modeling Agency to put 6,000 top US models on line. We will also put food services, hotel reservations, industrial services and supplies, mapping systems, credit card verification and publication services online. We are lining up 'WorldCLASS' development partners now and will be releasing a structured program in the coming months."

Further information on CLASS should be available by April.

It is clear that 1994 will be the year when the battle for dominance in the on-line graphics arena will be fully engaged. After the dust settles, we may finally emerge with a graphic standard for the on-line community. The contest will not be an easy one nor will it be without its victims. Many may fall by the wayside, but the prize will be rich not only for the champion but for the BBS community as well. Let the games begin!

(Jim Thompson is Managing Editor of Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also manages the Marlboro Racing News BBS. CompuServe: 72777,2677, MCI Mail: 321-4127)

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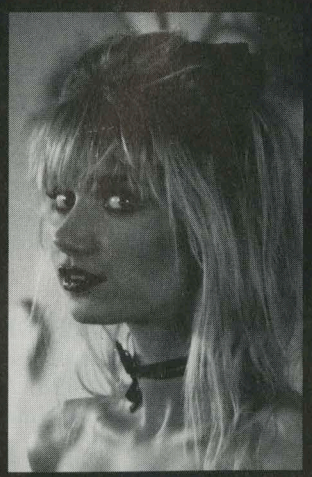

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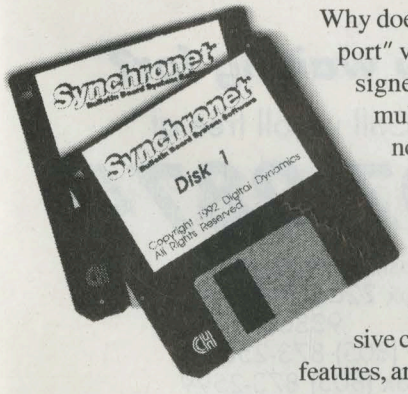
Multitasker	$200	$200	$200	Yes	Yes
8 port I/O	$300	$800	$995	$575	$500
Multinode chat	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Multichannel chat	Yes	Extra	No	Yes	Yes
Private key by key chat	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Offline reader support	Yes	Yes	Extra	$199	$99
QWK networking	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
FidoNet import/export	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Send/receive NetMail	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
PostLink (RIME) support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra	No
RIPscrip GUI support	Yes	No	No	Extra	No
Novell/DOS LAN support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
976/900 billing support	Yes	No	No	Extra	Extra
Real-time node activity alerts	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Enhanced CD-ROM support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Extra	Extra
Multiuser SDK	Yes	No	Extra	Extra	Extra
Incoming FAX support	Yes	No	No	No	No
Chat between doors	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Bidirectional file transfers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Multiple user command sets	Yes	No	No	No	No
Supports DOS doors	6 types	1 type	3 types	No	No
Hierarchical msg & file areas	Yes	No	No	No	No
External transfer protocols	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Total price	**$699**	**$1799**	**$1635**	**$1282**	**$1494**

Prices do not include CPU or modems. Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/93, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Commercial or Shareware Toss/Scan utilities are required for some message network technologies.

YOU COULD TOSS THE OTHER TWO.



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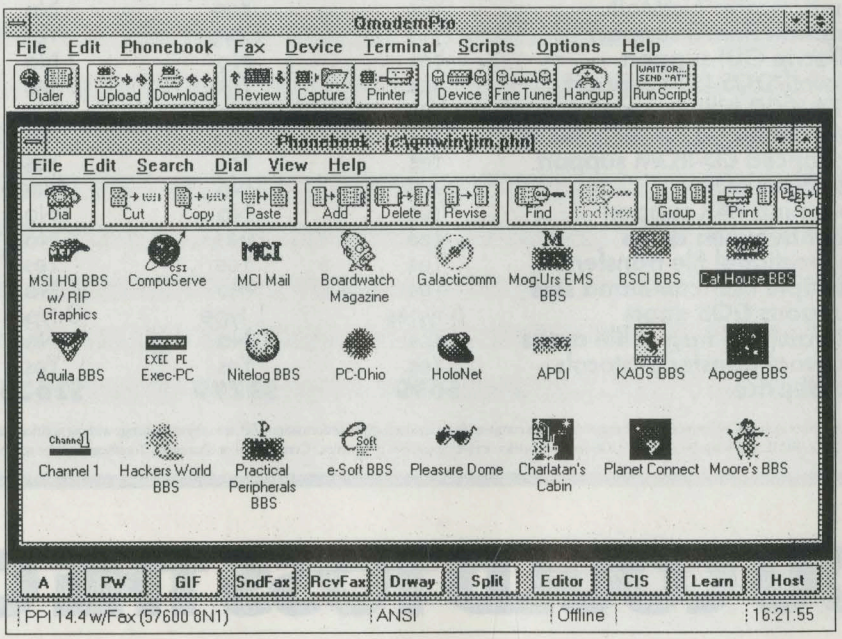

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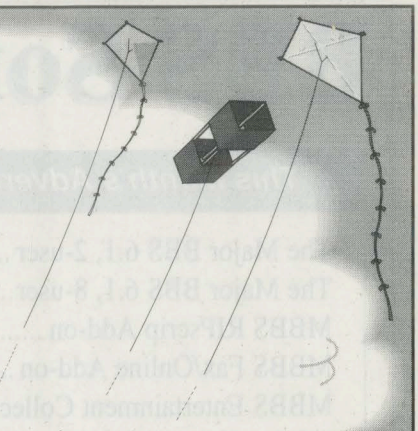

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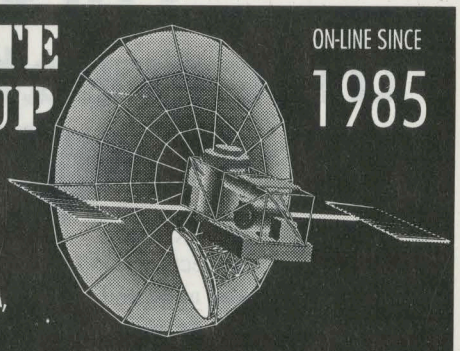

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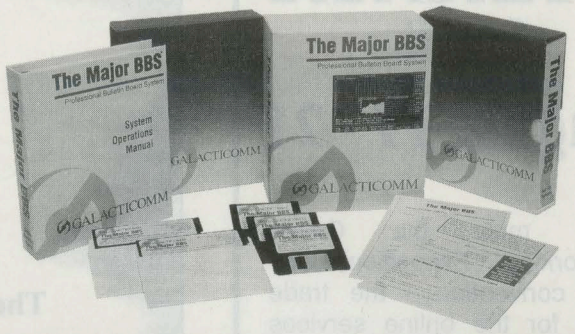

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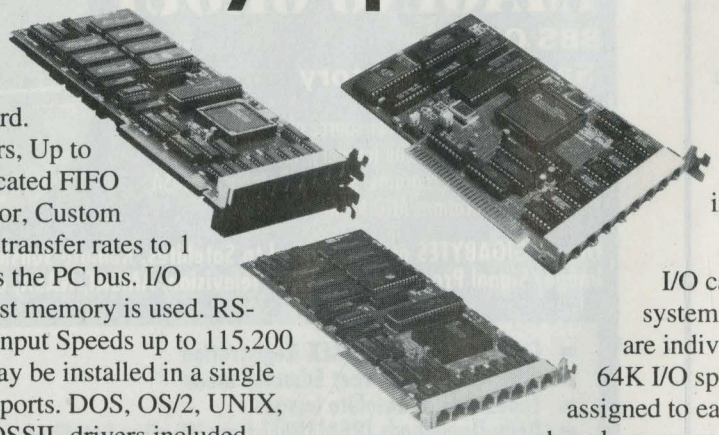

PCSS-8FX - Ultra High Speed Intelligent Octal Serial Card. Has eight RJ-12 connectors, Up to 512K of dynamically allocated FIFO memory, 24 MHz processor, Custom gate array provides DMA transfer rates to 1 Megabit per second across the PC bus. I/O mapped registers so no host memory is used. RS-232, 422, 485 interfaces. Input Speeds up to 115,200 Kbps. Up to eight units may be installed in a single computer for a total of 64 ports. DOS, OS/2, UNIX, XENIX, Windows and FOSSIL drivers included.

PCSS-8X - Eight port Serial I/O card. Has 8 DB-25 style connectors with FULL modem support in an external enclosure which mounts to the rear of your PC. 16450 UARTS are standard, 16550 UARTS are optional. RS-232, 422, 485 interfaces. Each port is individually addressable or may be located at a single address and selected via control code. Int 14H and Windows device driver and example code included. RJ-12 version available.

BBS550 - Eight port Serial I/O card especially suited for BBS systems. 16550 UARTS standard, ports are individually addressable throughout the 64K I/O space. Individual interrupts may be assigned to each port or interrupts may be shared among several or all ports. 10 conductor RJ-45 connectors with FULL modem support. Up to eight cards may be installed in a single PC for up to 64 ports. FOSSIL drivers included. DigiBoard, Hostess, Galacticomm compatible. Call for list of supported BBS software.

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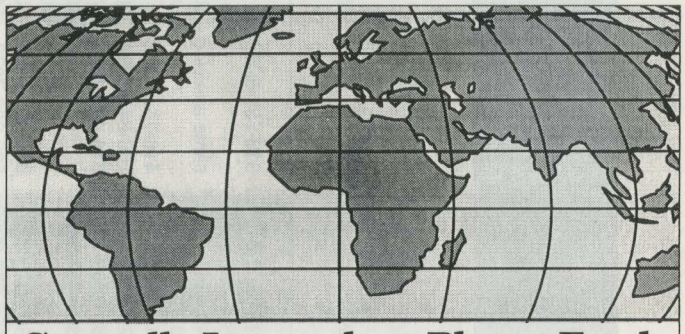

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Boardwatch Magazine - BBS SOFTWARE VENDORS

Product	Company	Voice	FAX	BB	Platform	Tele Lines LAN	Tele Lines PC	MultiTasker	LANLogons	FIDO	Internet	QWK	Other	Chat	PRICE:MAX	PRICE:MIN
CNet PRO 3	Perspective Software	313-537-6168	313-537-5942	313-255-2466	AMIGA	Unlim	100	DOS	Y	I	I	I	Y	Y	$229.95	$229.95
CocoNet	Coconut Computing, Inc	619-456-2002		619-456-0815	UNIX	1,000	?	OS	Y	N	I	N	N	Y	$18,995	$395
DLG Professional BB/OS	Telepro Technologies	403-341-7826	same as voice	403-347-3262	AMIGA	Unlim	29	OS	N	I	3	3	N	Y	$299	$299
DLX	Baudtown	818-894-4150		818-893-7600	DOS	-	32	INT	N	N	N	N	N	Y	$995	$395
FirstClass	SoftArc, Inc.	416-299-4723	416-754-1856	416-609-2250	MAC	-	22	OS	Y	3	O	N	I	Y	$3,450	$95
Hermes II	Computer Classifieds	206-643-2316	206-643-7830	206-643-2874	MAC	10	10	OS	Y	3	3	N	N	Y	$95	$95
hi-BBS	XBR Communication	514-489-1001	514-489-4966	514-489-0445	MAC	130	?	OS	Y	N	O	N	N	Y	$3,400	$175
Kitten	TelPro Technologies	804-442-5865		804-442-5867	DOS/OS2	999	?	OS	Y	3	3	N	N	Y	$195	$195
MEGAHOST	ASCII Computer Enterprises			209-836-2402	DOS	10	8	DV	Y	3	3	3	N	Y	$49	$49
Magnum BBS for OS/2	Gilmore Systems	805-379-3210	805-379-1340	805-379-3450	OS/2	64	?	OS	Y	N	N	I	N	Y	$900	$75
Multi-Net	Multi-Net Communications	503-883-8099	503-883-7879	503-883-8197	OS/2	999	12	OS	Y	N	N	I	N	Y	$895	$195
Novalink Professional 3.0	ResNova Software Inc	714-379-9000	714-379-9014	714-379-9004	MAC	Unlim	40	OS	Y	3	I	N	N	Y	?	$300
OPUS-CBCS	NONE	214-528-4687		214-528-4943	DOS	255	1	DV	N	I	3	3	N	Y	Free	Free
PCBoard	Clark Development, Inc.	801-261-1686	801-261-8987	801-261-8976	DOS	1,000	16	DV	Y	3	3	I	N	Y	$680	$170
Powerboard BBS	NUIQ Software, Inc.	914-833-3479	914-833-3623	914-833-1479	DOS	999	8	DV	Y	I	3	I	N	Y	$2,300	$99
ProBoard	ProBoard International	612-537-8655	612-537-8613	612-537-8659	DOS	255	8	DV	Y	I	N	I		Y	$49	$49
ProLine	Morgan Davis group	619-670-0563	619-670-9643	619-670-5379	APPLE II	1	1	NO	Y	N	I	N	N	N	$159.95	
RY BBS	The Ryco Company	414-962-5967		414-962-1097	DOS	9	4	DV	Y	O	N	3	N	Y	$175	$75
Remote Access	Wantree	913-441-1336	913-441-0596	913-441-0595	DOS	250	1	DV	Y	3		3	N	Y	$529	$149
RoboBOARD/FX	Hamilton TeleGraphics	800-363-7626	819-685-0994	819-682-7771	DOS	255	8	DV	Y	3	O	O	Y	N	yes	
SPITFIRE BBS	Buffalo Creek Software	515-225-9552		515-225-8496	DOS	255	1	DV	Y	3	3	I	N	Y	$85	$85
Sapphire	Pinnacle Software	514-345-9578	514-733-8644	514-345-8654	DOS	1	1	NO	N	N	N	N	N	Y	$45	$45
Searchlight BBS	Searchlight Software	800-780-5483	216-631-9289	216-631-9285	DOS	Unlim	10	DV	Y	I	3	3	3	Y	$399	$99
Second Sight Software	Scott Watson, FreeSoft Co.	412-846-2700		412-846-5312	MAC	2	2	OS	Y	3	N	N	N	N	?	$199
Synchronet	Digital Dynamics	714-529-6328	714-529-9721	714-529-5313	DOS	250	10	DV	Y	I	3	I	N	Y	$399	$99
TBBS	eSoft, Inc	303-699-6565	303-699-6872	303-699-8222	DOS	-	64	INT	N	O	3	O	N	Y	$1,995	$295
TEAMate	MMB Development Corp.	310-318-1322	310-318-2162	310-318-5302	UNIX	Unlim	?	OS	Y	N	O	O	N	Y	$2,000	$2,000
Telefinder	Spider Island Software	714-669-9260	714-669-1383	714-730-5785	MAC	200	20	OS	Y	3	3	N	N	Y	$2,000	$425
The Major BBS	Galacticomm, Inc.	305-583-5990	305-583-7846	305-583-7808	DOS	256	256	INT	Y	3	O	O	Y	Y	$10,717	$259
TinyHost	Bruce Krobusek	716-924-8284	716-924-4193	716-924-4193	DOS	1	1	DV	N	N	N	N	N	Y	$25	$25
WWIV	WWIV Software Services	210-631-6090		210-631-5841	DOS	999	8	DV	Y	3	3	3	N	Y	$320	$80
Wildcat!	Mustang Software, Inc.	805-873-2500	805-873-2599	805-873-2400	DOS	250	8	DV	Y	3	O	I	M	Y	$799	$129
Z/Max XChange	Z/Max Computer Solutions,Inc.	315-635-1882	315-635-1908		UNIX	Unlim	?	OS	Y	N	I	N	N	Y	?	$695

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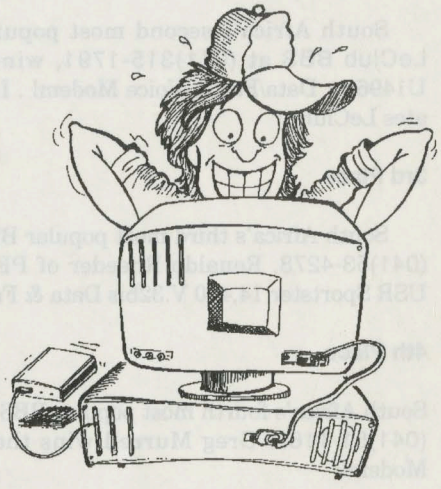

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RsaNET Awards

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA BULLETIN BOARDS

Inspired by the Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice Awards, a group of pioneering BBS operators in the Republic of South Africa banded together to do a similar contest for their community. We're most privileged to be able to present the results in this issue.

The RsaNET Users Choice Awards!

by Rob Fisher

Twenty thousand Rands worth of prizes thanks to our sponsors! ZyXEL Taiwan, Datatec SA and Clarke Development USA! We really appreciate the support!

Many thanks to Greg Mahlknecht who came to my rescue with ViperVote++ version 0.01 which saved me about a million hours of analysing a nearly half a meg text file! ;-)

The results of the RsaNET Users Choice Awards competition are as follows:

1st Place

South Africa's most popular BBS is the 9 line Digitec Online (011)476-7136 gets the prestige of being number ONE! Sysop Anthony Gerada has asked that the first prize of the ZyXEL 19,2 modem go to the next in line as he was instrumental in securing the sponsorship from ZyXEL Taiwan! Many thanks Ant!

2nd Place

South Africa's second most popular BBS, the ten line LeClub BBS at (011)315-1791, wins the ZyXEL 19,200 U1496e+ Data/Fax & Voice Modem! . Ina Sonnenmoser operates LeClub.

3rd Place

South Africa's third most popular BBS is P.E.Technikon at (041)53-4278. Renaldo Rheeder of PE Technikon wins the USR Sportster 14,400 V.32bis Data & Fax Modem

4th Place

South Africa's fourth most popular BBS is Friendly City BBS at (041)51-1185. Greg Murrell wins the Falcon MNP5 2400 Modem!

SA's most popular Sysop

South Africa's most popular Sysop Anthony Gerada wins the USR HST DS 16,800 Courier Dual Standard Data & Fax Modem!

SA's Lucky Draw User

The lucky User who wins the ZyXEL 16,800 U1496e Data/Fax & Voice Modem and a 2 user version of PCBoard v15.0 is Mynard Du Preez of Kempton Park!

His favorite BBS is LeClub and Ina is his favorite Sysop! He uses QModem and Ripterm as his comm programs. He started BBSing in June 92 and is 20 years old. He does have a second phone line for his modem and now he can put his 2400 Octocom out to pasture and move into the high speed lane with his brand new ZyXEL! His favorite BBS software is PCBoard followed by Remote Access. Congrats Mynard!

CONTEST STATISTICS

BBS results

Placing	BBS Name	Votes	Percentage
1	DIGITEC	168	36%
2	LECLUB	86	18%
3	PE TECH	29	6%
4	FRIENDLY	28	6%
5	NETLINE FLAGSHIP	16	
6	CONCEPT BBS	15	
7	ASPHYXIA	14	
8	NETLINE NORTHCLIFF	12	
9	CHATTERBOX	8	
9	FAST!	8	
9	TOP-LINE	8	

Congratulations to Anthony Gerada's Digitec! Anthony has done a wonderful public relations job for the whole BBS community and his call rates consistently break all records! Digitec is redefining BBSing in South Africa! I have a feeling that Anthony has only just begun and I'm sure he will want to retain top spot next year! Keep an eye on Digitec, SA's most popular BBS!

Second placed LeClub run by the husband and wife team of Ina and Jurgen Sonnenmoser is also an outstanding BBS and has also been a pioneer in SA BBSing! LeClub is a relatively new BBS and it's rise to the second spot in SA in such a short space of time just goes to show what can be done if you give the users what they want!

Congratulations also to the two PE Sysops Renaldo and Greg! Both are single node BBS's (at the moment) and to be right up there with the biggies is some mean achievement! Especially for Greg Murrell who is only been in the game a short while!

BBS Software

Placing	Software	Votes	Percentage
1	PCBOARD	152	48%
2	REMOTE ACCESS	69	
3	TRIBBS	21	
	OTHERS	76	

What can I say? PCBoard has always been my all time favorite and it would seem that the rest of SA feel the same way! SA's number one and number two BBS's both run the ever popular PCBoard 15.0!

It is interesting that the newcomer TriBBS has made such an impact!

Most Favorite Sysop

Placing	Sysop	Votes	Percentage
1	ANTHONY GERADA	95	27%
2	INA SONNENMOSER	62	17%
3	RENALDO RHEEDER	31	9%
4	GREG MURRELL	29	8%
5	IAN GERADA	17	5%
6	DUDLEY MARCUS	14	
7	PAUL GIRAUD	13	
8	MAC ANAMOURLIS	8	
9	ALAN KANOWITZ	8	
9	GRAEME SLOGROVE	8	

This is a very special category! Take a bow all of you! On behalf of the BBS community I would like to thank you for all that you have done! It's Sysops like you that really makes BBSing an addiction!

Comm programs

Placing	Software	Votes	Percentage
1	QMODEM	95	23%
2	TELIX	93	22%
3	TERMINAT	61	15%
4	PROCOMM	30	
5	TELEMATE	27	
6	BITCOM	15	
7	FRONTDOOR	10	
8	RIPTERM	9	
9	COMIT	8	
10	MICROLINK	7	
10	PC ANYWHERE	7	

South Africa topples PROCOMM from the top spot! Well done to MSI! QModem Test Drive and QModemPro are excellent products and we look forward to seeing the Windows version that has just been released!

Telix hasn't changed much in recent times but remains lean and mean and popular!

It is interesting to note that 51% of the users are now using 9600 or faster modems!

Modem Makes

Placing	Make	Votes	Percentage
1	US ROBOTICS	82	18%
2	ZOLTRIX	31	
3	AMPAC	27	
4	FASTLINK	16	
5	ACEEX	14	
6	DYNALINK	13	
7	INTEL	12	
8	HAYES	12	
9	ZYXEL	10	
10	SUPANET	10	

Modem Speeds

Placing	Speed	Votes	Percentage
1	2400	201	47%
2	14400	129	
3	9600	37	
4	16800	25	
5	OTHER	15	
6	19200	10	
7	1200	6	

Interesting Stats

We asked wether the respondents used Microsoft Windows? It looks like Windows is going to be playing an ever increasing roll in our lives!

72% said they used Windows!

28% either don't have Windows capable machines, or they are clinging to the C:> prompt, or they have something against Uncle Bill!

Another amazing statistic is that 26% said they had installed a second phone line for the modem!

This BBS game of ours seems to be a really male dominated hobby! Less than 2% of the respondents were female! Now how on earth do we get the fairer sex interested in these black box's?

The vast majority (79%) of BBS users fall between the ages of 15 to 35. The heaviest concentration of users are between the ages of 19 to 26 with 39%. The 20 year olds account for 5% and are the biggest single age group.

The RsaNET User Choice Awards competition was brainchild of Ian Gerada and was organised by the RsaNET Admin Hierarchy with the aim of generating as much awareness of BBS's, BBSing and echo mailing as possible! Many thanks to all involved and I look forward to next years competition!

The RsaNET network was born out of the desire to promote Bulletin Boarding in general and to promote communication amongst all. Most of you probably know the RsaNET motto by now... and for those of you that don't.... here it is! "COMMUNICATION is the name of the GAME!"

Dialing Africa from the United States

1. Dial international switch 011
2. Dial Country code 27
3. Dial Number

(Country code 27 included in this list.)

NAME	PHONE	SYSOP
Africa & OSeas		
Afro Line - Mozambique	27-9258-1415303	Helder Santos
Big Mathata's Fido Botswa	27-9267-37-3461	John Case
Elnet - Namibia	27-61-23-9623	Alex Boll
FONiX Info Systems UK	27-944-344306986	Chris Kenward
Little Bird BBS AH	27-9263-979476	Rich Stevens
Maputo DataLink	27-9258-1493403	Alan Williams
PADISnet - Ethiopia	27-9251-1514412	Lishan Adam
Tropical BBS - Mozambique	27-9258-1425745	Anibal Marques
Eastern Cape		
Big Mac	27-41-33-3113	Dave McEwen
Diakonos	27-441-8-1652	Deon Strydom
Eliac EL	27-431-5-7949	Mark Pullin
Friendly City BBS	27-41-51-1185	Greg Murrell
Mad Dog PE	27-41-66-2491	Bryan Haefele
P.E.Technikon	27-41-53-4278	Renaldo Rheeder
Sharelink	27-41-38-3611	Pieter Joubert
Star	27-431-37-2553	Trevor AngusThe
Catalyst PE #1	27-41-34-1122	Henk Wolsink
The Catalyst PE #2	27-41-34-2859	Henk Wolsink
The Catalyst PE #3	27-41-34-3279	Henk Wolsink
The Catalyst PE #4	27-41-335-088	Henk Wolsink
Toadys Palace	27-444-93-1168	Jacques Slabbert
Natal		
Alien Nation	27-31-21-4957	Trevor Tibbits
Asphyxia #1	27-31-765-5312	Dudley Marcus
Asphyxia #2	27-31-765-6293	Dudley Marcus
Chatterbox #1	27-31-269-3728	Richard Pillay
Chatterbox #2	27-31-269-1484	Richard Pillay
Chatterbox #3	27-31-269-1482	Richard Pillay
Connectix #1 to #6	27-31-266-9992	Dave Hall
Connectix JHB #1 - #8	27-11-889-1744	Dave Hall
DataSOFT AH	27-31-47-7658	Craig Nicholson
Dataverters BBS #1 Privat	27-31-765-5534	Support BBS
Dataverters BBS #2 Public	27-31-765-5950	Graeme Heaven
Dataverters BBS #3 Public	27-31-765-6154	Michael Cookson
For Your Eye's Only AH	27-31-28-5318	Che Bond
Force	27-31-207-3394	Craig Johnston
I Spy	27-31-21-8961	Peter Spies
I.D.S.	27-331-45-5710	Gavin Nesbitt
Treasure Trove	27-31-83-2517	Dale Pinn
Twilight Zone	27-31-77-3357	Graeme Ross
Free State		
Bombed Out #1	27-18-468-6262	Charl Cilliers
Bombed Out #2	27-18-8-6524	Charl Cilliers
Compu-Mania BBS	27-18-468-6779	Agostino Gaglio
Maxfokus #1	27-57-212-3415	Pierre du Preez
Quantum BBS	27-148-294-6469	Tiaan Van Aardt
Spiral Helix #1	27-51-30-0434	Kobus Myburgh
Pretoria		
Africa Online	27-12-45-2784	Mark Stayt
Armageddon AH	27-12-991-1109	Robert Mills
Computer Haven	27-12-343-3953	Kassie Bester
EDIC	27-12-342-3771	Theunis Prinsloo
Eeru BBS #1	27-12-379-7288	Derek Nigrini
Eeru BBS #2	27-12-379-7271	Derek Nigrini
Giaans I	27-12-333-1163	Gawie Myburg
Giaans II	27-12-331-5088	Loot Enslin
HSRC Genealogy	27-12-202-2433	Isabel Groesbeek
Hints R US BBS AH	27-12-542-1845	Leon Steffens
Mad Hint Line #1 AH	27-12-374-2388	Haneef Tayob
Mad Hint Line #2 AH	27-12-374-2289	Haneef Tayob
Malone's All Night Diner	27-12-543-0825	F.W. Nolte
Novell User Group	27-12-333-1642	Richard Peer
Nut Cracker BBS AH	27-12-333-8378	Philip van Rooyen
PC Workshop	27-12-98-3266	Mike Hein
Pat's System	27-12-333-2049	Pat Verner
Psychogony BBS AH	27-12-46-1257	John Leuner
RGN/HSRC	27-12-28-3124	David Butler
Radon BBS	27-12-661-1257	Gert Lombard
SACEC	27-12-349-1095	Deon Loretan
Sherwood Forest AH	27-12-543-1315	Johan Du Toit
Software People	27-12-73-3104	Various Sysops
Spectrum BBS	27-12-998-9141	Andre van Heerden
Tele-Soft	27-12-807-2005	Christoff Joubert
The Baby International	27-12-333-2076	Deon Loretan
The Red Scorpion	27-12-73-5788	Sergio Barata
The Star City	27-12-333-2246	Edwin Peer
Top Byte	27-12-660-2410	Neal Blount
Unisa Editorial	27-12-429-8641	Steve Hayes
Wolfenstein	27-12-64-5823	Michael Steyn
Wow International #1-#2	27-12-333-9069	Wilhelm Lehman
Johannesburg and Transvaal		
A La Carte	27-16-62-3602	Kevin Pearce
AECI BBS	27-11-608-1516	Mark Symons
ALienation AH	27-11-472-4157	Andrew Tavenor
AMA/CM	27-11-334-6100	Malcolm Kleu
Ace's Place BBS	27-16-82-3565	Monte Veldtmann
Alpha BBS	27-11-435-1456	George Inacio
Astro BBS AH	27-11-768-2924	Frits Kok
BaudRoom	27-11-942-4603	Morne' Wiggins
Bird's Nest AH	27-11-839-1310	Christo Badenhorst
CDS Online	27-11-744-3136	Grant Anderson
Calm	27-11-900-1118	Clive Jones
Capricorn	27-11-434-1134	Mike De Bruyn
Catacomb	27-11-827-6763	Craig Nichols
Catalyst #1	27-11-888-3341	Tjaart Silvis
Catalyst #2	27-11-888-3332	Tjaart Silvis
Christian Network AH	27-11-753-1364	Peter Gill
Concept BBS	27-11-440-6246	Paul Giraud
Creative BBS	27-11-887-1949	Dan Wagner
Democratic Solutions	27-11-826-2658	Richard Koenis
Digital Gallery	27-11-783-9654	Mark Furst
Digitec Online #01	27-11-476-7136	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #02	27-11-476-7137	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #03	27-11-476-2382	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #04	27-11-476-2008	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #05	27-11-476-6254	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #06	27-11-476-7526	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #07	27-11-476-7527	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #08	27-11-476-7528	Anthony Gerada
Digitec Online #09	27-11-476-7529	Anthony Gerada
DriveLine	27-11-883-4500	Gary Naidoo
Educare	27-11-854-2184	Raj Naransamy
FBI-BBS	27-16-81-1706	Frik Havenga
Fast!	27-11-706-1749	Graeme Slogrove
Gamers Online II AH	27-11-763-5846	Peet Gouws
Goldfields #1	27-11-393-3624	Niel Uys
Goldfields #2	27-11-393-3626	Niel Uys
Graphics #1	27-11-817-1321	Hein Hurter
Graphics #2	27-11-817-1590	Hein Hurter
Green Dragon	27-11-475-6637	Graham Leggett
HNR "In Touch" BBS	27-11-444-0235	Graeme Adamson
HPS	27-11-444-9443	Marck Norton
IBM OS2 User Group #1-#4	27-11-331-5508	Paul Dreyer
Keith's Place	27-11-435-1779	Keith Kennedy
LA Technology	27-11-807-0077	Sharon Van Blerck
Layout de Marillac	27-11-768-2435	Allan Marillier
LeClub #01	27-11-315-1791	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #02	27-11-315-4682	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #03	27-11-315-4681	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #04	27-11-315-4680	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #05	27-11-315-3477	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #06	27-11-805-0578	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #07	27-11-805-0579	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #08	27-11-805-0580	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #09	27-11-805-0581	Ina Sonnenmoser
LeClub #10	27-11-805-0582	Ina Sonnenmoser

NAME	PHONE	SYSOP
Lotus Club International	27-11-476-6617	Christine Masson
M. to M. JHB	27-11-403-1199	Kirk Kinnear
Megavibe BBS	27-11-683-9623	Justin Bloom
Mirrored Trap Inc	27-11-792-8878	Warren Ashe
Mon Ami	27-11-433-1988	Deon Maartens
Mother One	27-11-425-3430	Ivan Frimmel
Music and Mail	27-11-395-1792	Paul Clifford
Netline Flagship #1	27-11-789-6084	Ian Gerada
Netline Flagship #2	27-11-789-6085	Ian Gerada
Netline Flagship #3	27-11-789-6086	Ian Gerada
Netline Flagship #4	27-11-789-6087	Ian Gerada
Netline Flagship #5	27-11-789-6088	Ian Gerada
Netline Flagship #6	27-11-789-6089	Ian Gerada
Netline KSD	27-16-66-0955	Gustav Karlson
Netline Magic #1	27-11-646-8316	Johnny Staskun
Netline Magic #2	27-11-646-8317	Johnny Staskun
Netline Northcliff #1	27-11-477-1225	Alan Kanowitz
Netline Northcliff #2	27-11-477-6003	Alan Kanowitz
ONWE BBS #1	27-11-880-9191	John Bannister
ONWE BBS #2	27-11-447-2055	John Bannister
ONWE BBS #3	27-11-447-1047	John Bannister
ProFORUM	27-11-441-4106	Nigel Bakker
Rand Data Systems	27-11-412-2540	Richard Kruger
Randburg Ultra	27-11-476-4735	Malcolm Kleu
SASA AH	27-11-864-5787	Ashley Kleyhans
SOFTEX	27-11-975-9073	Petrus Van Breda
Snarfquest AH	27-11-892-3374	Steven Wishart
Softpack Software	27-11-421-3980	Tomek Stochmal
Tech Air	27-11-884-6836	William Sussman
Teddy	27-11-683-7541	Mike O'Nay
The Lair	27-11-884-7945	David Herselman
The Lakeside BBS	27-11-472-5521	Mark Stayt
The Vulcan AH	27-11-768-3452	Jack Peters
Top Line	27-11-828-9315	Mac Anamourlis
Total Chaos AH	27-11-882-5314	Nir Oren
VC BBS #1	27-11-435-3922	George Inacio
VC BBS #2	27-11-435-1345	George Inacio
VC BBS #3	27-11-435-1431	George Inacio
VC BBS #4	27-11-435-1446	George Inacio
VC BBS #5	27-11-435-1454	George Inacio
World of Windows	27-11-468-1979	Bradley Patton

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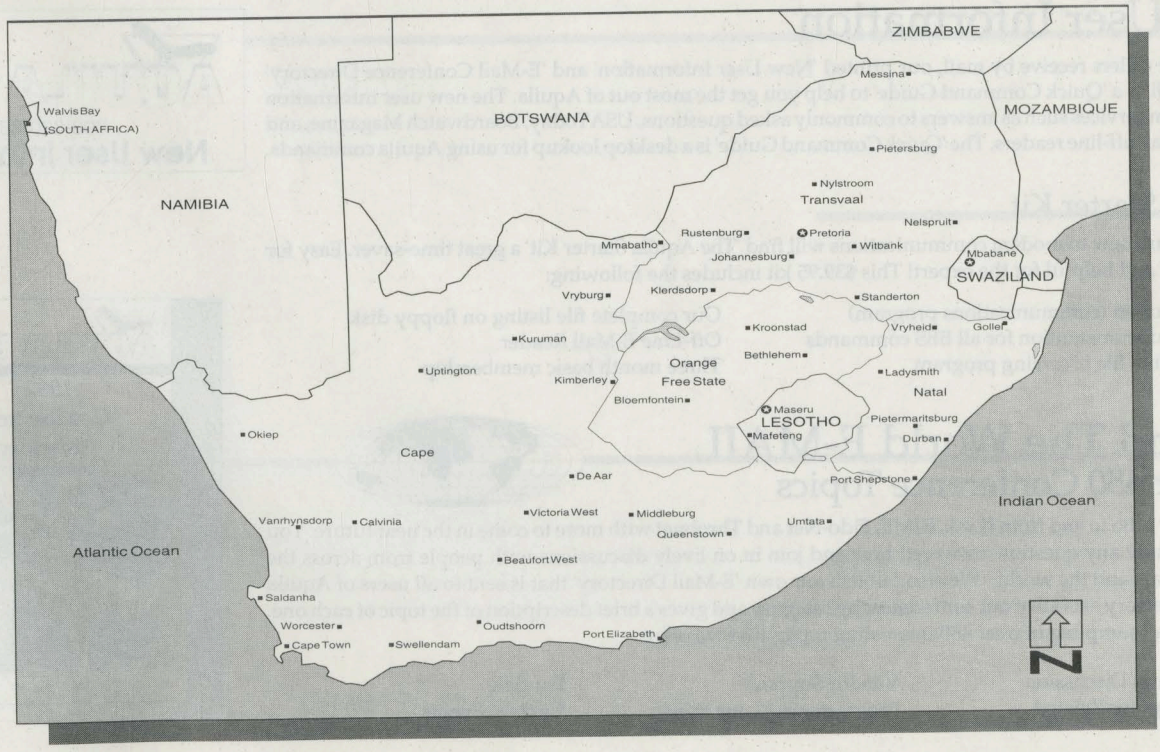
Western Cape		
Active #1	27-21-887-1779	Franscois Jooste
Active #2	27-21-887-9126	Franscois Jooste
Africa Board	27-21-434-6173	Dan Samara
Ampac	27-21-510-5418	Pieter Engelbrecht
Bee-Line #1	27-21-461-6275	Mike Goode
Bee-Line #2	27-21-461-2149	Mike Goode
Bee-Line #3	27-21-461-4140	Mike Goode
Bitcom BBS	27-21-61-2428	Ryan Vietri
Brainwaves	27-21-797-1696	Chris Clarke
Cape MacBoard	27-21-96-6067	Reginald Louw
Chameleon BBS	27-21-462-4580	Gary Colman
Chariot BBS	27-21-72-9703	Katja Christiansan
Cyber BBS AH	27-21-99-3022	Andre' Miller
Eye of the Storm	27-21-887-9477	Christiaan Keet
Geonet Amiga	27-21-592-2686	Eric Carsten
High Tide AH	27-21-913-2034	Francois Verster
Infolink #1 - #3	27-21-683-2060	Anthony Walker
Information Security BBS	27-21-24-2208	Oliver Steudler
Intergrated Systems #1-2	27-21-26-2866	Adam Paster
Intergrated Systems #3	27-21-26-2868	Adam Paster
Intergrated Systems #4	27-21-26-2869	Adam Paster
Interlink Hub	27-21-683-2909	Mike Cameron
L&R BBS	27-21-595-2300	Michael Nel
Logic	27-21-591-4954	Jerry Henriques
Lost Link	27-21-551-3691	Warwick Ward-Cox
Luna-Antics	27-21-461-2656	Martin Lorton
M. to M. CT	27-21-557-7785	Kirk Kinnear
Magnum BBS	27-21-26-1101	Joe Rinck
Meg-Data	27-21-531-0450	Ian Meggy
Metal Worx AH	27-21-73-6076	Manuel Sardo
Mutant Pencil's Pad	27-21-919-0300	Santie Vandenplas
NCS	27-21-930-2752	Colyn Brookes
Night Hawk	27-21-975-2182	Barry Williams
R&G Board	27-21-975-1928	Ron Stynes
S.P.Y. BBS	27-21-92-3182	Michael Nel
ShadowLand BBS	27-21-705-6355	Will Steffen
Specfix	27-24-55-4113	Etien Plekker
TechnoSystems	27-21-794-4762	Avi Miller
The Last Resort AH	27-21-58-3767	Paul Wollner
XYZ BBS	27-21-762-5891	Andre Neuwnhuys



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The AQUILA BBS Team (Left to right: Kevin & Kristy Behrens, Steve Williams, Chris Babb)

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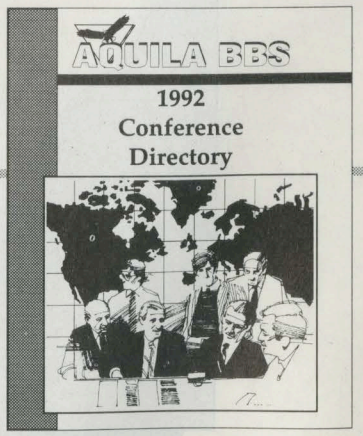

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BEYOND THE 500 CHANNELS: THE CENTER FOR CIVIC NETWORKING

by Lance Rose

As the Internet comes of age it has acquired several dancing partners. These include the ever-hopeful financiers of Wall Street we observed last month, as well as the Clinton administration, presumptively renaming the Internet the "National Information Infrastructure" as if it was an orphan found floating among the reeds. Another set of dance partners seeks to extend the gift of networking to those other than the rich and powerful — which numbers most people in this country, and in fact, the world. Several socially conscious groups have already achieved a high profile: The Electronic Frontier Foundation, seeking even-handed data transmission capabilities for all data users large and small., and to preserve our civil rights on the computer networks; The Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, keeping government and corporate America honest in their network dealings, most recently through its relentless inquiries into the nest of secret deals and compromises behind the government's proposed Clipper encryption standard; and The Taxpayer Assets Project, seeking to free up public access to databases originally created using taxpayer funds, but which somehow became twisted into the private preserves of companies reselling the public's own data back to it for a profit.

Another group emerging powerfully on the scene is the Center for Civic Networking, based in both Washington and Boston. CCN is entirely devoted to the grassroots, the firmament out of which the Internet grew and in which it still largely resides. Large-scale networking veterans Richard Civille and Miles Fidelman founded CCN in August, 1992. At that time, strategic alliances were multiplying among giant companies to divvy up our national telecommunications resources, raising the grim prospect that a leviathan or two might walk away with the whole booty, drowning us in their wake with a broadband flood of endless incremental variations on MTV. CCN's goal was to educate the public and community leaders on the virtues of the existing Internet before it all got steamrollered flat beneath the big money commercial interests. They set to work in the Boston area, seeking to assist various local community projects.

But then Clinton and Gore took office and started publicly proposing some vague equations between large-scale telecommunications and the future of the United States. The political winds shifting in an entirely new direction, CCN saw opportunities open up far beyond its original self-appointed task of performing salvage work on an about-to-crumble Internet. Shifting its base of operations to Washington, CCN stepped boldly forward to help steer our wobbly ship of state through the murky waters of cyberspace. Its grassroots goals remain the same, but now CCN is helping our civil servants on the Hill funnel the gathering massive investment in telecommunications, both public and private, into paths far more compelling than sheer consumerism. As CCN puts it:

A National Information Infrastructure (NII), designed for democracy, will help our country work smarter with an informed citizenry more fully engaged in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Americans will enjoy more efficient, less costly government. The NII can help produce high quality jobs and educated citizens to fill them. We will pave a road away from poverty and promote life-long learning. Such a promise fulfilled will improve the public health and cultural life of our communities and revitalize our civic institutions. This is the civic promise of our information infrastructure — not simply a "video dial tone", 500 channels of movies, home shopping, or interactive video games.

This promise of deep and lasting benefits from computer networking is a pitch we don't hear often enough. In the not-so- old days, the beauty of the net for hackers and kindred souls was its promise of a wide-open frontier where one could both range free and retreat hermit-like from one's fellow humans. This dream was supplanted in the past year by the big business types, whose current rage is to package the networks as the next shot in the arm for the entertainment industries. These fads and others will leave their impressions on computer networking, but they are not deeply entwined with the soul of networking. The individualists will move on to new frontiers, the entertainment businesses will find other exciting technology fixes as broadband networks become just another standard delivery channel. But networks are ultimately about hooking people up for more effective communications. The changes in community activities and goals wrought by network communications will be lasting and deep. The very nature of community institutions will change, and conversely one of the biggest contributors to the ongoing shaping of the networks will be the needs of the communities they serve.

In keeping with its wholeheartedly adopted Washington focus, the first major product of CCN's efforts was a policy document aimed straight at legislators, titled "A National Strategy for Civic Networking: A Vision of Change", and finalized in October, 1993. This document defines for our political leaders how computer networks can serve local communities and national goals, both in broad terms and in detail. Despite its length, it seems to have won CCN a few

converts. CCN and its ideas were cited with approval in the Clinton administration's NII announcement (reprinted in its entirety in the November, 1993 issue of Boardwatch), and CCN is now one of the key groups helping the administration figure out how our government will fund and regulate the information superhighway.

The National Strategy document is a smorgasbord for legislators, broken down into three major sections. First, and perhaps least, is the "Vision of Civic Networking", a dream of how computer networks will cure every social ill plaguing mankind today, from revitalizing local economies to saving billions in health care to upgrading the education of our children. This is old hat to those who know already that the power of computer networks can revolutionize any social endeavor, if properly applied. However, many of our legislators are not modem initiates. CCN's flashy rundown of the wonderful social benefits of networking might help them understand from afar the scope of the communications revolution taking place. As a fringe benefit, it can give them and their supporters some inspiring mantras to pitch back and forth among themselves as they drum up votes for more dollars to help beef up the networks. Heck, it might even convince a couple of 'em to pay a native guide to take them on a little safari into the online jungle.

The second section of CCN's document sets forth four "Grand Challenges" for federal public interest communications policy: (1) leveraging the existing investment in today's Internet to create an effective, expanded National Information Infrastructure, (2) using public access to the NII as an "economic weapon" for reducing the federal debt, (3) using the NII to provide for "sustainable development" of local economies and communities, and (4) using the NII to provide for the poor and the "information have-nots." Again, these possibilities, if not always so grandly stated, are pretty obvious to those familiar with the Internet. In fact, it would be sheer lunacy to think of approaching any of these tasks through computer networking without using the Internet as the basis. CCN's achievement here has been to link the capabilities of the Internet (and its projected stepson NII) to national and grassroots goals. By carefully phrasing these goals in the overblown terms of traditional political rhetoric, CCN again seeks to divert legislators' attention to the vast social benefits of giving their constituents a bigger online playground. A bit too vast, perhaps. If the Internet (with or without a little enlightened federal guidance) does not knock out chronic poverty and the federal debt, will that mean it's a failure? Or can we be satisfied if Mr. Internet, after showing up in our living room TV sets, helps a small but measurable subset of our nation's couch potatoes achieve an incrementally greater state of alertness than they managed previously under a steady diet of Nick at Nite?

Perhaps the most impressive part of the National Strategy document is the third section, presenting CCN's four-fold approach to actually achieving the many broad policy goals it sets out for our country and the Internet. The first activity is to "gather new socioeconomic research data on how Americans use networked information at home and at work." There is very little such data so far. How could there be, with the Internet itself barely a concept more than a few years ago? One means of gathering data will be the U.S. census; CCN proposes to add computer network usage surveys to the types of data routinely collected by the census takers in the future. CCN has also begun working with the National Economic Council to investigate new surveys on network usage in the daily lives of Americans.

The second major activity is to develop a set of meaningful "benchmarks" for measuring network progress and the effects of various network initiatives, and to help determine future efforts. CCN claims benchmarks are important for enabling the American public to "shape the information highways through the democratic process." An "Information Infrastructure Benchmarking Project" has been planned, to be jointly conducted by CCN with another Washington group called the Center for Policy Alternatives. CCN points as a model to a long range plan called "Oregon Shines," adopted way back in 1988, which set up an Oregon Progress Board to establish measurable objectives for information network development.

Benchmarks look like a neat idea in theory, but their applicability to the Internet must itself be tested. The Internet has succeeded so far in growing like a wild weed without being effectively measured or guided. Can benchmarks be used meaningfully in this environment without being overrun? If so, can they help the Internet attain a greater value for a greater number of people than if the network just grows wild of its own accord? In any case, the value of anarchy as a fundamental principle of network operation should not be underestimated. It is the basis for the hardiness of the Internet, and it remains the very reason for being for Fidonet today.

CCN's third activity is to identify, develop and support local civic networking projects that might serve as good models for wider use — what CCN refers to as "scaleable prototypes." Many individual networks and bulletin board projects have already been identified by CCN, and their National Strategy document is worth reading just to have a look at the panoply of public networking projects going on around the country right now. As for general models, CCN has tentatively identified a few already: the "Free- net" - basically a franchise from a company that owns the "Free- net" trademark, which will sell various network services to its franchisees; the Municipal Network, run by a single city and coordinating that city's services; and the Regional Network, similar to a municipal network, but without a specific community base, in which the various social service agencies and human services agencies can share and coordinate information and resources. As these models and others are studied and better understood, it may be possible to refine them into plug and play templates for other communities that wish to get wired up but don't quite know how to do it.

Finally, CCN plans to develop "progressive" policy models to guide the future development of our social processes and civic institutions. For instance, they believe the public library will play a pivotal role in civic networking projects. The U.S. may have a large installed base of home computers, but for many, especially in the lower economic classes, CCN believes that libraries will be the most common on-ramps to the information highway for the foreseeable future.

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CCN also sees the library serving an essential role as a secular, meditative community meeting place, which should be preserved even as its monopoly over stored information dwindles. Of course, to make this transition the library must mutate, and those that don't may well die off. Among other things, librarians will have to learn to encourage conversation, instead of keeping everyone quiet. Similar transitions will be necessary for such institutions as museums, schools and health clinics, but again, they are all also seen by CCN as necessary for the future of our communities. New public institutions may pop up as well in the networked environments, but it is hard to say what shape they'll take. Perhaps in some places libraries will be replaced by more general "media centers", or perhaps radio station chains will one day swallow a free-net or two.

Believe it or not, all this barely scratches the surface. Other current and future projects of CCN include an economic development project in Bevins, Massachusetts; holding conferences and forums in Boston and Washington, and participating in many other conferences relating to network policy; the Sustainable Development Information Network, supported by Apple Computer, with the goal of creating an information service for use by New England communities and companies; involvement in the Interagency Telecommunications Advisory Council, a group of Southern California municipal agencies seeking to create a general-purpose regional civic network; and other new projects by the day.

The artist Picasso once said you need to have an idea of what you are going to do, but it must be a vague idea. This seems to describe CCN pretty well. They have an impossibly ambitious agenda, vague due both to the newness of the ground covered and the breadth of the territory they have marked off as their field of action. Nonetheless, they seem to be doing a good job so far of biting off chunks that can lead to worthwhile results. A little down the road, the challenge will be to see if they can sharpen up their various agendas into a clearly focused vision of interoperating civic networks on the local, regional and national levels.

We must note that CCN is firmly committed to working with city, state and federal governments. In fact, CCN insists that government must play a role in network development if the networks are ultimately to serve more than the ruling classes in our society. This kind of talk makes those who distrust government bristle, and they may be right. CCN may simply be hopelessly, if deliberately, naive in placing its trust in government doing the right thing or the smart thing. By the same token, CCN may be the one who's right. Perhaps those with the bad luck to lack a personal fortune will find themselves left out of much of the coming networked world unless our government steps in to assert the needs of the many against the whims of the few.

CCN figures it can only depend on a small window - until 1996, the end of the current Clinton administration - to do its work. By that time, it says government policy agendas on networking will be "locked in," and further change will devolve into the time-honored wrestling match with red tape. So for those who are interested, the time to set public networking agendas is now. **The Center for Civic Networking** is located at P.O. Box 65272, Washington, DC 20035, **(202)362-3831**, **rciville@civicnet.org**

Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, NJ. He can be found on the Internet at **elrose@path.net**, *and on Compuserve at 72230,2044. He is also author of SysLaw, the legal guide for online service providers, available from PC Information Group at* **800-321-8285**.

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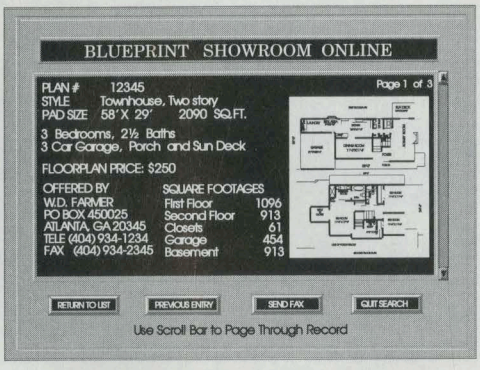

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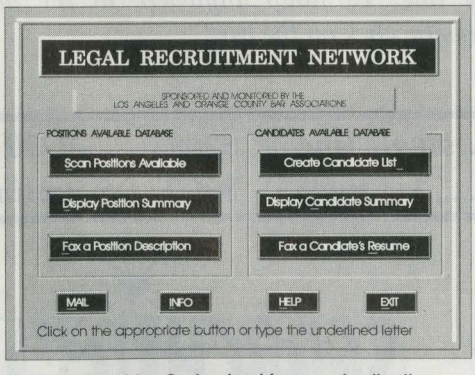

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The Graphical User Interface is here to stay. Your callers love the dazzling displays and powerful features that Windows and OS/2 provide. They don't want to give that up just to call your board.

If you just want graphics, you can choose any BBS program that supports TeleGrafix's Remote Imaging Protocol. But if you want the power that only a true GUI provides, then you need Searchlight 3.5.

RIP support, not RIP service

Beauty—like our competition's RIP support—is only skin deep. They still display text in 20-line chunks. They make you press *Enter* to confirm choices. And make you tag items by typing line numbers.

And they can't create RIP screens. So you have to buy a paint program and spend hours drawing screens that match your menus.

Searchlight believes in doing things first, and getting them right. In 1987, we released the first BBS with a full-screen editor. In 1988, we added Lotus-style menus. In 1993, we were first with RIP support.

Our RIP support isn't tacked on—it's built in. We generate RIP screens on the fly. We give callers pick lists, scroll bars and dialog boxes.

Is there really a difference? Listen to Boardwatch editor Jack Rickard: "Searchlight has incorporated RIP technology to an amazingly integrated level with their BBS package... It looks hot."

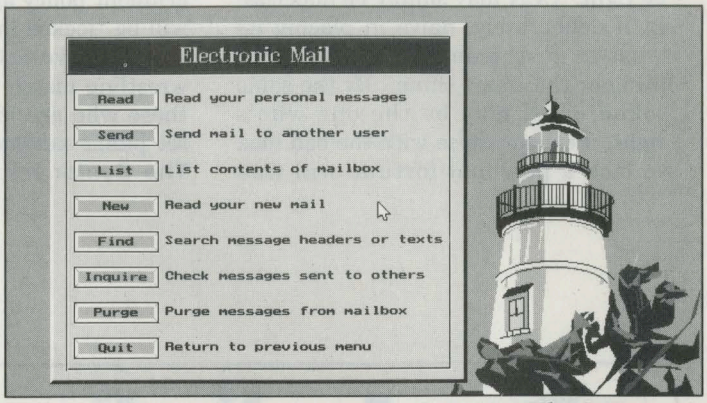
No fine print

Callers like the things Searchlight 3.5 does. Sysops like the things Searchlight won't do.

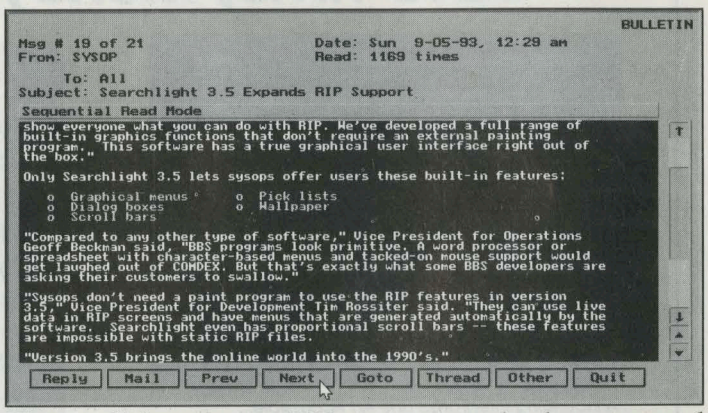
We won't charge extra for DigiBoard compatibility or tech support. Our remote DOS shell is built in. Our 30-day, money-back guarantee is unconditional, with no "restocking fee". If you want to add lines, we credit all your purchase price toward your upgrade.

And we don't want to sell you a terminal program. We include TeleGrafix's RIPterm with every copy of Searchlight, so you can give every new caller a free, RIP-compatible terminal.

So call us for your demo of Searchlight 3.5 today. And see why our sysops and their callers say that Searchlight just isn't like the other GUIs.



The lighthouse was an existing RIP screen. The RIP menu on it was automatically generated by Searchlight.



The scroll bar on our RIP message reader lets you read mail line by line. To jump anywhere in the message quickly and easily, click on the bar.

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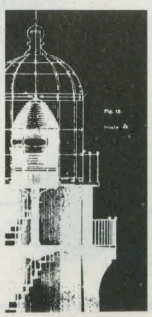

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MONTHLY LIST - NEW JERSEY

By Brian Gallagher

Among the flashing lights, big jackpots, and high stakes of Atlantic City, one community of individuals is winning over and over again - BBS users. With a list comprised of 707 BBSs New Jerseyites are really cashing in on a plethora of BBSs that are flourishing in their state. And thanks to Wayne Morton, citizens of the most densely populated state in the union can pick and choose which boards they would like to call.

Morton updates the mammoth list as often as he can and willingly solicits help from anyone and everyone to accomplish the task. And he has done one heck of a job for being a relative novice to the computer industry. He bought a computer in 1985 after a motorcycle accident left him wheel chair bound. But that hasn't slowed him down one bit.

After teaching himself Word Perfect, he found a job teaching the program for a company. Seven months later he was told by a social worker that he didn't score high enough on an aptitude test to learn word processing. Go figure.

But word processing was not going to be the last stop on Morton's silicon journey. After watching the movie, "War Games," he bought himself a modem, and was running his own BBS by 1987. A quick year after that he was and is the master of one of the largest BBS lists in North America. The list also turns out to be a very popular one, with over 2,000 hungry users downloading it every month, from several area boards he distributes it to.

What makes this list so popular isn't just the huge volume of people concentrated into such a small area, it has a lot to do with the quality of the boards too. Which brings us to **Compu-Data, (609)232-1245**. "I think it's the best board in the state...without a doubt," he said. Adding that sysop Phil Gordemer does a great job with the board. The major draw of the board for Morton is an immense library of files, or "every file that has been around since the beginning of time."

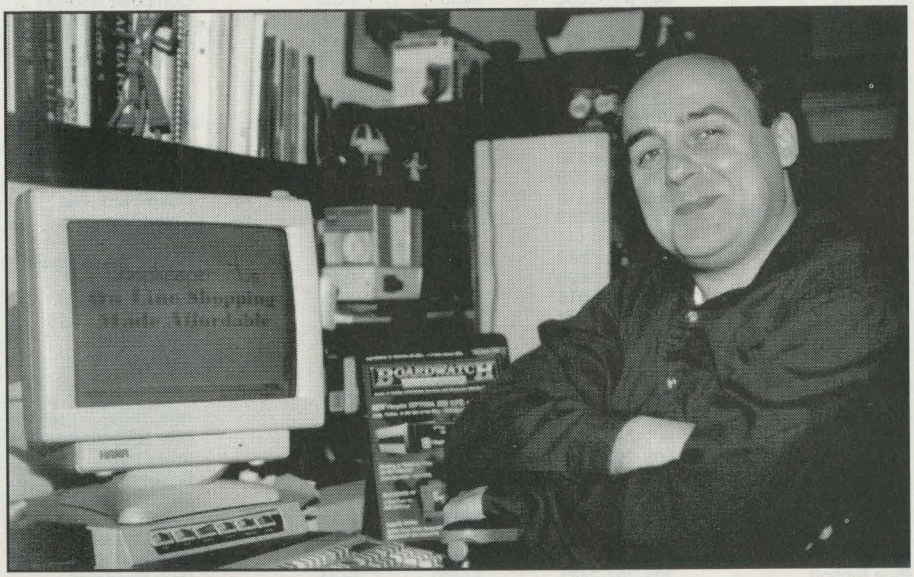
Another board that gets high marks from Morton is **Allen's Space Shuttle, (609)953- 5612**. The Space Shuttle is loaded with CD- Rom drives with all sorts of information that Morton thinks is particularly helpful to syops.

On his own board, the Praedo BBS, **(609)953- 0769**, Morton is particularly proud of the shopping area. It is a new addition to his board he has also distributed to other area boards - created out of a brainstorming effort between Morton and programmer Michael Smith. The program allows sysops to sell merchandise and patron memberships on their boards. It's different from other shopping programs because they supply sysops with data bases of merchandise they can sell without having to worry about inventory or overhead.

Morton said the shopping section is "really cool because we keep adding new vendors, and it's neat to see what they have to offer." He has a theory that executives no longer have time to deal with their spouses because they are always on bulletin boards. Therefore, while they're on the boards they will buy their spouses a little something from the shopping program as a peace offering for long late night hours. (A little hint to the too often online executive - Morton hopes to have flowers online by Valentine's Day.)

Hopefully his BBS shopper will save a few marriages and avoid at least as many spats. While we're on the subject of avoidance, there are some boards or some sysop practices which Morton thinks are best to do just that - avoid. Topping off his don't dial list are sysops who are into the practice of distributing pirated files. Other don't bother BBSs are boards that constantly change their name. "I hate that," he said. It's no wonder, considering he must track the name changes, and a board that can't decide on a permanent name just confuses users and sysops alike.

After avoiding these nuisances, Morton is ready to dial until the lines melt, and he is fascinated by the possibilities of future BBSing, especially the onset of more and more BBSs adding Internet connections. Indeed the Internet seems destined to change, at least to some degree, the face and function of BBSs forever. While the rest of New Jersey wanders about their daily routine, one of the largest online communities hums silently along with New York City as a busy and bustling backdrop. And somewhere tucked away behind a keyboard, is Wayne Morton, making sure those who travel via the phone lines get to where they are going, and know where it is that they want to go.



Wayne Morton of Praedo BBS
(Photo courtesy of Linda Vivanco)

New Jersey Area BBSs

NAME	PHONE	BPS	SW
10 Forward	908-938-6950		
221-B Baker Street	201-661-2690	2400	PCB
A Christian BBS	908-905-5046	2400	ABS
ACG-NJ Newsletter	908-322-8531		
ACGNJ	908-752-9285	2400	RBS
ACGNJ Main BBS	908-322-8006	9600	
ADS/HGM Support BBS	908-245-6938	14400	RMA
Al Zone	908-446-5781	14400	MAX
ANARCHY BBS	908-459-5909	14400	MAX
APFL BBS	201-567-6994	9600	TeG
AT&T Developement	908-658-5345		
Abbadon	201-586-9661	14400	
Academia	609-383-9400	9600	PCB
Aces High	908-290-1133	14400	EXP
Acid Dreams BBS	201-825-7310	16800	AGA
Adam's Computer BBS	908-364-0841	9600	RBS
Adrenalin Overflow	908-766-1355	14400	TAG
Adult House	609-933-0963		
Adventurers Guild	201-751-7766	14400	PCB
Airport II	908-627-0318	14400	WCT
Alche-Miga	201-398-6360	9600	STN
Alex's World	609-467-5540	14400	GAP
Algorithms Inc BBS	609-451-7950		WCT
All American BBS	609-490-1277	2400	WWV
Allen's Space Shuttle	609-953-5612	16800	PCB
Alpha Omega	609-692-9366	9600	PCB
Altered Illusions BBS	908-329-3216	14400	WCT
Alternate Reality	201-895-5066	14400	AGA
Alternity BBS	201-328-4566	2400	TAG
Aluminum Mallard	201-263-8616	9600	TAG
AmCoServ RBBS	609-263-0352	2400	RBS
Amiga Link	908-506-0097	2400	AGA
Amiga Lynx	201-368-7830	14400	AGA
Amiga Zone, The	609-953-8159	9600	CTL
Amigatized 07:00-21:00	609-443-8230	9600	AGA
Amigatized Elite	609-443-6164		
Animal House	609-488-4527	19200	PCB
Anomaly BBS	201-827-0519	14400	RMA
Apple Manor, The	908-521-5194	9600	WCT
Appleline	609-424-1382		
Apt To Be BBS	609-546-5808	9600	MAX
Arc Exchange	201-680-1336	9600	PCB
Arena, The	908-272-6890	9600	PCB
Arrakis	908-537-4207	2400	PCB
Arrakis BBS	908-638-5766	14400	PCB
ArrowTack	201-327-5775	9600	SLT
Ass Backwards BBS, The	201-472-8312	14400	VBS
At End of Universe	201-884-2795	9600	TAG
AtantiST CD ROM BBS	609-660-1082		
Atlantic Alliance	908-879-2693		APL
Atlantis	609-778-3747	9600	CTD
Atlantist	908-793-0492	2400	
Atlntc County Library	609-625-2665		
Atrium Way	201-984-5555	14400	RBS
Auto Mart, The	201-402-1552	2400	TAG
Automation Insight	201-335-7202	14400	PCB
B.F.W.K.	201-941-3302	9600	PCB
BB's BBS	609-768-6585	9600	RBS
BBS Express, The	609-461-6254	14400	PCB
BOSS Clipper BBS	201-568-7293	9600	PCB
Backstreet	908-506-7566		
Badlands, The	201-509-0436	14400	AGA
Bandersnatch	201-627-8137	9600	RMA
Basement, The	908-486-4815	9600	SLT
Basement, The	908-741-4116		PCB
Battletech	908-454-1279		
Beach!! BBS, The	908-321-1518	14400	WCT
Beacon Studios BBS	201-863-5253	14400	MAJ
Bear Mountain Railroad	609-265-1144	14400	WWV
Beast!, The	201-383-5543	14400	WCT
Beckett BBS	609-467-3898	9600	GAP
Bel-View Mental Ward	908-859-1016	2400	TeG
Best Buy BBS, The	201-866-3721	14400	PCB
Beyond the Couch	201-398-5549	14400	WCT
Bill Board, The	201-935-1104	9600	PCB
Bill's BBS 4+ gIG	609-845-9171	14400	GAP
Billy Bob's Attic	201-358-1276		ATI
Biomed Engineering	201-596-5679	2400	SLT
Birds Nest, The	609-767-5909	2400	WWV
Bit-toon BBS	609-296-0854		TeG
Bits n' Bites	201-346-1661	14400	SLT
Bk Lng ofthe Tour Bus	908-637-6336	9600	AGA
Black Forest	609-386-1274	14400	MAX
Black Plaque	201-701-0647	14400	OTH
Blackstar!	201-335-6132	14400	WCT
Blue Ribbon	201-791-7471	14400	PCB
Board Unknown, The	908-257-7163	14400	TAG
Bounty	908-431-4088		
Bridge BBS, The	201-656-4602	14400	WCT
Brunswick Mart	908-257-6029	9600	PCB
Bucky's BBS	609-861-1131		WCT
Butterfly, The	201-523-1162	16800	WCT
ByteWise	908-363-2760	14400	OTH
Bytes 'n' Bits	201-437-4355	19200	PCB
Bytes Online	908-727-4779	14400	WWV
CFONJ	908-486-2956	9600	TBS
CJCC Forum Board	609-771-3177	14400	PCB
CYBERWARS BBS	908-654-1290	9600	TAG
Caddy Shack II	908-206-1958		WCT
Caddyshack	908-920-2353	2400	APL
Camelot BBS	201-433-7299	9600	TAG
Camelot BBS	201-984-8323	2400	OTH
Candle Stick	201-997-9172	14400	VBS
Capital City BBS	609-261-0689	14400	MAX
Captain Hook's BBS	908-905-9066	14400	SFR
Captain Kirk's	201-875-6619	14400	WCT
Carelon BBS 2	201-263-4230	14400	TAG
Caretaker BBS, The	201-523-8212	14400	TAG
Carnal Plumber's....	908-925-9827	2400	TeG
Casablanca BBS	908-929-9431		
Casino BBS	609-561-3377	9600	PCB
Castle BBS	201-827-6059	14400	PCB
Castle Tabby	908-988-0706	2400	FCL
Cave of Cerebus BBS	201-845-8250	2400	AGA
Cecom	908-532-8720		PCB
Celestial Backstratch	609-399-7516	14400	SPT
Central Core BBS	201-334-2555	14400	PCB
Central NJ MicroConnect	908-525-9440	9600	WCT
Centrl Jersey Mustang	908-254-5618	9600	WWV
Chat Chalet	201-791-6548	14400	MAJ
Chateau de Clement	609-478-0722	2400	
Cheapo Studios BBS	908-566-7052	14400	DLG
Cheers Online!	609-443-9008	2400	MJR
Chessboard, The	201-515-8557	14400	TAG
Children's Home	609-261-5772	9600	OTH
Chuck's Attempt	201-729-2652	14400	PCB
Cliffside Park	201-886-8041	9600	PCB
Cliffside Pk Cemetery	609-926-3881	14400	Trl
Cloud 9 II	609-234-3347	1200	OTH
Club BBS	908-370-9033		
Club BBS, The	609-398-1766		PCB
Club House, The	908-272-6426	14400	TBS
Cobra's Triangle CNet	201-335-1652	9600	AGA
Collector's BBS, The	201-635-4519	14400	
Coming Attractions	908-972-8583	14400	RMA
Communications Net.	908-464-3998		
Comp-U-Match	908-679-5706		RBS
Compiracy Therory	201-377-2898	2400	2AM
Compu-Data	609-232-1245	14400	PCB
Compucon	201-887-7463	9600	RBS
Compulink II	609-567-9779		PCB
Computer Connection	609-895-0398	9600	WCT
Computer Connection	201-798-0065	9600	PCB
Computer Junction	908-354-6979	9600	WCT
Computer Nookery	201-423-4258	9600	PCB
Confussion BBS	908-238-8952	9600	
Cop Shop, The	908-254-8117	9600	WCT
Corporate Disk	201-731-4141	9600	WCT
Corporate Graphics	201-882-0010	14400	PCB
Cosmos BBS	201-472-0102	14400	OPS
Cosmos BBS, The	908-264-3023	2400	WCT
Country Inn	609-652-7103		
County Jail][	201-387-7995	14400	TBS
County Jail, The	908-787-7459	14400	WCT
Court Yard, The	201-340-2399	14400	SLT
Cove, The	201-509-0430	14400	MAX
Crackers BBS	609-298-8168		GAP
Cross Colors System	201-429-3099	2400	TeG
Crow's Nest	201-790-8812	2400	PCB
Cruise Ship BBS	201-770-2414	14400	TAG
Cyber World BBS	201-991-2369	14400	WWV
CyberNet II	201-226-3456	2400	WWV
Cyberspace	609-723-8952	9600	WCT
Cyclops /w HugNet	609-742-8223	9600	
Cyclotron	908-687-7720		
DEA Designs BBS	201-764-8669	14400	WCT
DKZ BBS VGA & Music	908-566-8267	9600	WCT
Dad's Place	908-634-1673	14400	MAX
Danger Zone BBS	201-347-2652	9600	AGA
Dante's Inferno	609-589-2530		MGP
Dark Cartel, The	908-819-4010	14400	OTH
Dark Destiny 1.9 Gigs	609-629-4733	9600	TeG
Dark End, The	201-586-9891	14400	AGA
Dark Shadows	609-782-8205	16800	PCB
Dark Star	609-561-5007	2400	WWV
Dark Tower	609-298-3130	0300	APL

New Jersey Area BBSs

NAME	PHONE	BPS	SW
Darkside, The RIME	609-391-0987	9600	PCB
Darksword	201-423-3539	9600	WWV
Data Port	908-906-6968	14400	PCB
Data-Base	908-735-2180	9600	PCB
DataScope III	609-273-2443	16800	PCB
Dawns End	609-461-7062		AGA
Daystar BBS .06	609-778-5572	9600	OTH
De BBS	201-569-3543	9600	WAF
Deadlock BBS	201-460-7955	1200	SKI
Dealmakers BBS, The	908-730-9002	14400	PCB
Dean's Info Center	201-675-2154	9600	PCB
Dean's Office	201-279-7048	14400	PCB
Death Stryke	908-821-4168	14400	OTH
Defender I	201-437-5304	14400	VBS
Den BBS, The	908-388-8242	2400	TeG
Den Disabilities,The	201-342-3273	9600	TBS
Der Strand	201-822-3658	14400	RMA
Deredain's Realm BBS	201-796-2752	16800	WCT
Designed Letters	201-263-9147	14400	PCB
Detour BBS, The	609-896-3691		PCB
Dezine Associates	908-390-2063	9600	TAG
Diamond Mine, The	908-899-9684	14400	RMA
Digital Abyss	908-422-4130	14400	MAX
Digital Dimensions URSA	908-542-7085	14400	WCT
Digital Spectrum	201-664-0571	2400	TeG
Diner, The	908-418-4354	16800	PCB
Dismal Sphere BBS	201-997-7497	14400	VBS
Doctor One's Op. Room	908-247-5787	14400	OTH
Domain, The	908-548-8094	14400	OTH
Dominion Matrix	201-326-9428	14400	DOM
Don's BBS	609-435-1663	14400	PCB
Dragon's Bone, The	201-797-1612	2400	SFR
Dream Info,RIME+Thrb	908-888-3959	9600	PCB
DreamCatcher	201-579-7254	14400	WCT
Dreamline	201-765-9090	9600	MAJ
Drummer's Abode	201-746-1841	2400	TAG
Dungeon BBS	609-567-0163		WWV
Dungeon Master's Den	908-273-7914	9600	QBS
Dungeon, The	908-531-2709	14400	
Dust /V Bones	201-612-8817	14400	PCB
Dx Connnection, The	201-692-3705	9600	PCB
Dynalogic Suport	609-398-7453		AGA
E-Patrol #1	201-989-8107	9600	ANT
E-Patrol #2	201-663-0314	2400	ANT
E.I.B. System, The	201-664-7217	14400	PCB
E.o.D. Systems	201-579-9387	14400	TeG
Eagle Command	908-446-0612	14400	QBS
Eagle's Nest	201-838-2465	14400	WWV
Eagle's Nest, The	201-939-2695	2400	OPS
East Wind	201-875-7063	14400	WFF
EastCoastCircuitBoard	201-605-8117	9600	PCB
EastSide BBS	908-525-2303	2400	COM
Ed Gleb's Database	201-694-7425	2400	RBS
Edgelight	201-305-9042	14400	GAP
Electric Blue	908-241-0868	14400	PCB
Electric Pen, The	201-767-6337	9600	APL
Electron Symentry	609-768-5689	14400	WCT
Elysium	908-972-2343	9600	APL
Empty Warehouse	201-875-8324	9600	PCB
Equinox	201-652-0969	14400	PCB
ErgoNet	609-729-8227	9600	PCB
Essex Co. Boardroom	201-923-3967	14400	QBS
Etheral Plane, BBS	609-435-5991	16800	WWV
Eureka	201-989-8323	9600	PNX
Evergreen BBS	201-398-2373	9600	WCT
Excaliber's Realm	201-256-0691	9600	BPC
Excalibur	609-768-8904		
Exchange, The	609-259-1251	9600	PCB
Executive Lounge	201-895-4452	2400	WCT
Exploding Appliances	201-509-8568	9600	2AM
Expressway BBS, The	908-777-7845	14400	RMA
Falcon's Lair, The	201-939-2911	9600	
Family Radio Forum	201-736-1859	2400	OTH
Family Room, The	201-691-0305	2400	VBS
Fast Data BBS	201-209-1857	14400	PCB
Fat Boys BBS, The	908-969-8691	14400	WCT
Fat City BBS	201-884-7381	2400	VBS
Fatal Humor	201-625-2977	2400	AGA
Faulty Towers & CDR	201-933-9048	9600	PCB
FileExchange	908-905-3029	14400	SLT
Final Fantasy BBS	908-892-0761	14400	RMA
Final Frontier, The	201-387-9510	9600	SLT
First Responder BBS	201-791-3310	14400	WCT
Fisherman's Warf	908-560-8020		APL
Flash Fire	201-444-1822	9600	PCB
Flea Market	908-446-1665		
Fleet Street BBS	908-526-1751	9600	RBS
Flight Deck	609-455-0956	9600	VBS
Flying Dutchman, The	201-428-0982	16800	
Fone-Link	908-351-5883		PCB
ForePlay BBS	201-288-8629	14400	?
Forest, The	201-228-0009	14400	OTH
Forked River Club	609-971-7902		WCT
Fox's Den, The	908-651-8494	14400	RMA
Franklin Lakes	201-337-1327	14400	ROS
Franklin's Tower	908-246-7632	14400	RMA
Frankly Speaking	201-633-0569	1200	OTH
Free For All BBS	201-998-7337	9600	PCB
Freedom Board	201-402-7645	2400	SFR
Freedom Infonet	609-586-4847	14400	RBS
Fresh Start BBS	908-248-1678	14400	WCT
Fun & Games	201-934-8008	9600	SLT
FunTime	908-273-8709	9600	QBS
Funny Papers, The	201-478-8476	14400	MAX
Future Force	201-261-1136	2400	TAG
G.A.L.(Get A Life)	201-677-3040	14400	18+
GLine BBS	201-692-9882	2400	WWV
GSCUG	908-938-3885	2400	QBS
GVC Support	201-579-2380	14400	PCB
Galaxy BBS	609-678-5360		PCB
Galaxy BBS	609-691-8701		
Galaxy I	908-723-0270	2400	
Gamers Exchange BBS	201-509-7324	14400	WCT
Games Afoot	201-487-7556	9600	SLT
Games BBS, The	609-965-6135	2400	WCT
Gap Chasm	609-467-0244	9600	GAP
Garden Terrace BBS	609-939-3857	9600	WCT
Garden of Eden BBS	201-839-5401	14400	WCT
Gas Tank, The	609-886-3717	9600	PCB
Gasman's Chamber	609-893-7494		VBS
Gates to AnotherWld	201-514-1036	14400	TAG
Gateway	609-931-3014	9600	CTL
Gateway BBS, The	201-767-3428	14400	WCT
Gateway to Oblivion	201-825-8913	14400	PCB
Gen-u-Quest	908-789-8834	14400	RMA
Generic	908-389-8473	14400	CTL
Geno's Place	908-525-0155	14400	WCT
Ghost Hackers][Elite	201-627-6880	28800	PCB
Global Universe	201-670-9719	14400	
Golden Dane	201-338-5265	14400	PCB
Graphics BBS	908-469-0049	9600	
Graveyard, The	201-473-0193	9600	SCO
Graveyard, The	201-783-6763	2400	VBS
Gregg's Place	201-948-0038	14400	WCT
Group Mail Distrib.	908-721-3087	9600	
Gypsy Baron	908-271-5168	9600	MAX
HC-HS BBS Educational	908-782-0857	9600	
HES BBS Public Safety	908-840-6921	14400	WCT
Hacker's Central	201-783-3298	9600	PCB
Hades BBS	201-261-0127	14400	UBS
Harry's Place	201-934-0861	9600	MAX
Haunted Mansion, The	609-530-0046	2400	WWV
Headquarters BBS	201-672-8944	14400	AGA
Headquarters BBS	201-539-4306	14400	DLG
Heel's Angels, The	201-226-6296	14400	WWV
High Density	609-926-3690	9600	PCB
High Frontier	908-739-3693	9600	RBS
Hobbit Hole, The	201-848-5471	14400	PCB
Hoboken City Lights	201-792-0626	2400	OPS
Holly City, The	609-825-1621	14400	PCB
Hologram Computing	908-727-1914	14400	OTH
Home Base	908-355-3592	14400	RMA
Horse Connection	609-561-0018		RBS
Hot Tub Chat Lounge	201-617-8054	14400	MAJ
Human Interface BBS	609-393-9733		
Hunterdon Hangout	908-782-1856	2400	VBS
Ice Cave	908-819-7721	14400	TAG
Ice Palace	908-494-5767	14400	OTH
Idiosyncracies	201-751-9791	14400	18+
Imperial Fort, The	908-972-1001	14400	MAJ
Imperium	908-706-0321	9600	
In A Blue Room	201-584-5469	14400	WCT
Inferno BBS, The	609-228-1675		REG
Inferno, The	609-390-3703		TBS
Infinit Journey, The	908-873-6988	14400	TAG
Infinite World	609-953-3996		WWV
Info Exchange	201-691-5500	9600	RBS
Info Express	609-627-8495		
Info Source	908-821-2530	14400	WCT
Info-Nation	609-235-0183	14400	RBS
Info-Net BBS	609-628-4311		WCT
Info. Exchange	908-273-5507	14400	SBS
InfoData Support	908-298-3726	14400	WCT
InfoMarket Express	908-879-7209	14400	PCB
Informatix BBS	201-612-0559	14400	OPS
Informer BBS, The	201-236-8419	14400	RNG
Innocents, The	908-615-9052	14400	DOM
Insane Asylum	201-335-1797	9600	TAG

New Jersey Area BBSs

NAME	PHONE	BPS	SW
Intelligentsian	908-774-3953	14400	PRO
Internat'l Traders	201-478-1016	9600	DBS
Iron Castle BBS	201-822-0527	9600	AGA
Iron Daisy BBS	201-252-0669	2400	RNG
Ironhorse BBS, The	908-531-4238	14400	PCB
Isle-Net	908-495-6996	2400	TBS
It's All Rock & Roll	609-695-9319	9600	WCT
JACS Atari	609-346-1224		
Jersey Devil, The	609-893-2152	2400	CTL
Jezebel's Parlour	201-927-2932	9600	TBS
John's Garage	201-288-7269	2400	EBS
John's House	201-893-9636	14400	PCB
Joseph's Bar&Grill	201-299-1306	2400	RNG
Juice Bar BBS, The	908-298-0764	9600	TeG
Jungle Chat SST	201-694-5081	2400	OTH
Jungle Streets, The	201-831-6633	1200	OTH
Just Programs	908-298-9098	9600	PCB
Ken's Cavern	201-796-0619	2400	PCB
Kendall Park BBS	908-821-8015	9600	PCB
Kid's Playpen, The	201-843-3279	2400	SLT
Kin Ships	201-676-7066	2400	SLT
King's Crown	908-238-4193	14400	OTH
Kirby's Dream Land	609-939-1376		WWV
Kiva BBS	201-347-4253	2400	TAG
Koinonia BBS	609-625-4475		PCB
La Dolce Vita BBS	609-722-0499	14400	WCT
La Villa Strangiato	201-386-9150	14400	AGA
Labor BBS, The	201-223-0485	9600	WCT
Laboratory, The	201-342-5659	9600	RBS
Lake of Fire	908-545-2769	9600	OTH
Land of Evil also	609-662-2634	9600	OTH
Laser Connection	201-472-7785	9600	MAJ
Last Days	201-595-1573	14400	WCT
Last Word BBS , The	201-523-2058	14400	WCT
Late Nite	609-764-9687		AGA
Learning Center, The	609-467-5709	14400	OTH
Liberty Bell BBS,RIME	609-667-5652		PCB
Lightning Bolt	201-916-1725	14400	PCB
Lightning Bolt	609-853-0568	14400	WCT
Lightning in a Bottle	201-731-7194	14400	WCT
Lily of the Alley	201-729-2186	9600	PCB
Linken Review I	908-253-0897	14400	WCT
Livewire, The	609-235-5297	9600	PCB
Living History	609-653-8225		
Loading Zone	201-786-1827	2400	VBS
Locker Room, The	609-889-8374		TBS
Logic Gate	908-874-4104		
Looking Glass	201-748-7993	1200	2AM
Lost Atlantis BBS	201-926-5689	14400	VBS
Lowes Plaza	201-514-1949	9600	PCB
Lunatic's Lounge, The	609-455-1665	2400	WCT
Lunker Lake BBS	609-886-4854	16800	TRI
Lynx BBS	201-768-7029	9600	PCB
MPA-FNSS,MutualFund	201-762-4360	2400	OTH
Magic Dominion	908-583-7894	14400	WCT
Magical Toy Shop	201-293-8091	14400	WCT
Magnasys BBS A.R.E.Net	609-854-2099	2400	VBS
Majerle BBS, The	201-764-3654	9600	WWV
Maniac Mansion]I[	908-525-8295	14400	WWV
Maniac's Realm	201-941-8739	14400	PCB
Manifest Reality	609-767-5429	14400	OTH
Manor BBS	908-493-3936	14400	RMA
Maple Shade Opus	609-482-8604	9600	PCB
Mare Tranquilitatis	201-659-4186	14400	RMA
Market, The	201-467-3269	16800	PCB
Master Astron	201-779-5495	2400	PCB
MatchMaker Mecca Chat	908-821-1684		
Maven Haven, The	201-661-4327	14400	WWV
Maven's Roost	908-940-8810	14400	WCT
Meeting Place, The	201-444-8052	9600	PCB
Megabyte BBS, The	609-835-1090	9600	PCB
Megaplex	201-492-2396	2400	MAJ
Men's Room, The	609-645-1385	9600	RNG
Menhir	609-628-4372	14400	FOR
Menti's Bay	201-385-2874	14400	WCT
Merlin's Castle	908-572-1202	14400	MAX
Metal Connection	201-337-7336	14400	SLB
Metal Shop, The	609-261-3585	9600	VBS
Micro BBS	201-471-6887	14400	PCB
Micro Room BBS	908-245-6614	14400	RMA
Micro-C	201-366-5018	14400	WAF
MicroFone Info	908-205-0189	14400	TBS
MicroSellar BBS	201-239-1346	14400	PCB
Microcosm	201-398-1133	9600	QBS
Milky Way	908-580-0486	9600	
Millenium BBS	201-374-2730	14400	WCT
Minolta DIStalk	201-825-1707	9600	WCT
Modestnet	609-734-0226	9600	
Mom's Place	908-249-4239	9600	OPS
Moore Service Indust.	609-384-6097		
Mountain Top	201-927-0352	2400	RMA
Mourning Glory	609-584-1478	9600	OTH
Mousehole BBS	201-997-2663	2400	VBS
Murphy's Law	201-216-0292	14400	WCT
Music Ladder Network	201-471-4913	14400	PCB
My Nightmare BBS	609-399-5708	14400	WCT
Mystical Aura	201-894-8546	14400	TAG
Mystical Illusion	609-296-4370		OTH
N. American Confed.	201-746-3935	14400	WCT
N. Jersey Share File	201-487-0227	2400	RBS
NJ Intelligence Agency	201-669-9857	14400	WCT
NJ ThoroughNet	908-707-9846		WCT
NJPC User's Group	201-471-6391	14400	PCB
Native Spirit BBS	201-538-6087	14400	WCT
Necroscope	201-535-9739	14400	TeG
Nerc BBS	609-452-7669		PCB
Net House	609-854-1471		
Net. Communications	201-438-2938	14400	RMA
New Age Arena, The	908-530-3203	14400	RMA
New Dog's Breakfast	908-506-0472	14400	MAX
New Firehouse BBS,	609-768-6365	2400	WWV
New Spider's Web, The	201-797-3166	14400	OTH
New Vets BBS, The	908-506-0361	14400	RBS
New World	201-726-0038	2400	PCB
New World BBS	201-729-9538	9600	PCB
Newark On-Line	201-824-3978	14400	VBS
Newport Center Unix	201-626-3550	9600	OPS
Newport Centre	201-763-6077	14400	OPS
Next Generation BBS	609-482-7345	9600	PCB
Nick's Folly	609-764-2243	14400	
Nickalf's Kastle	201-471-1832	14400	
Night Hawk	609-863-6976	2400	WCT
Night Hawk's Lair	609-988-1927	14400	OTH
Night Owl	201-445-1528	2400	EBS
No Gravity BBS	609-898-1808		
No Nonsense BBS	908-654-3178	16800	PCB
No-Uploads BBS	908-925-0845	14400	SLT
Notes For You	908-505-8420	2400	WCT
Nullpointer	201-543-9326	9600	SFR
Nut House, The	201-612-8594	2400	QBS
Nut House, The	908-324-2617	14400	MAX
Nutley BBS	201-667-2504	9600	PCB
OPS Piks Gad	201-445-4070	14400	PCB
Oakridge BBS	201-697-1192	2400	TeG
Odyssey	201-927-0329	9600	PCB
Off Hour Rockers	908-591-2641	14400	PCB
On-A-Hot-Rock	609-893-2874	14400	VBS
Online Shopper	908-290-7951		
Online in D Hood	609-645-7080		
Operation Amiga	201-347-2097	14400	CNT
Optimum BBS	201-568-1826	14400	PCB
Other BBS	908-449-6289	14400	WCT
Otherside BBS, The	609-854-3614	2400	WWV
Outer Limit BBS, The	201-347-0465	9600	PCB
Outer Rim	201-579-4834	9600	MAX
Outlaw's Hideout	201-387-1658	14400	WWV
Over The Edge	201-573-0719	9600	SLT
Overkill BBS	201-584-2563	2400	SFR
P.F.S.P. BBS	908-688-7377	2400	TAG
PC Club of SJ	609-662-6923	9600	PCB
POW/MIA Information	908-787-8383	9600	WCT
Pacific Islander BBS	201-661-3694	14400	WCT
Panasonic Com. Systems	201-863-7845	9600	2AM
Paradise Theatre BBS	609-386-8161	9600	VBS
Party Machine, The	201-797-8125	14400	PCB
Passaic Valley BBS	201-256-4509	14400	PCB
Paul's Boutique	609-971-9518	16800	TRI
Penguine Feather's/2	201-956-7703	14400	MAX
Personal Computing	201-485-0299	14400	VBS
Phoenix	201-652-6628	9600	PCB
Phoenix - Modern	908-830-8265	9600	PNX
Photo-80	201-790-6795	2400	PCB
Pick's Place	201-765-0164	14400	PCB
Pics On-Line	609-753-2540	14400	PCB
Pigeon Coop BBS, The	908-269-8209	16800	RMA
Pixie Moss BBS, The	609-953-2726	14400	WCT
Plain Brown Wrapper	201-569-6685	14400	WCT
Planet Shadowstar	908-494-3417	9600	TBS
Planet X	609-730-1656		WWV
Playroom	201-748-8643	9600	PCB
Poison Pete's	201-948-3428	14400	QBS
Polka Dot Palace	201-829-8480	14400	2AM
Polymath One	609-392-5953	14400	PCB
Poor George	201-664-1059	14400	PCB
Power Windows	201-492-9527	9600	AGA
Power Windows CNet	201-492-9748	9600	AGA
Power-Line BBS	609-455-8840	14400	PCB
Praedo BBS	609-953-0769	14400	SLT

New Jersey Area BBSs

NAME	PHONE	BPS	SW
Prancing Pony, The	201-942-2576	9600	TPB
Prism BBS, The	201-794-9529	9600	SLT
Program RequestCenter	201-261-1917	14400	PCB
Pump Up the Volume	201-836-1051	14400	WWV
PussycatsPlayh'se	201-376-1173	2400	MAJ
Pyroto Mountain	908-241-8528	1200	
PyschoCentral	908-636-9169	14400	RNG
Python BBS, The	609-223-0133	14400	PCB
Q-Systems BBS	609-294-1398	2400	OTH
Quantum Zone	201-307-1452	9600	SLT
Questionable 1!	908-870-3956	9600	SLT
Quill & Inkpot BBS	201-340-1340	2400	
R.C.E. Support	201-587-1003	14400	TBS
RES-Q Support Board	201-881-7421	14400	PHX
Radio One!	201-712-1507	14400	WCT
Radio Wave	609-764-0812	9600	PCB
Rainbow Connection	201-967-1061	14400	RCS
Rainman's Sporadic BBS	609-692-9163		PCB
Ralph's World	609-698-5479	9600	SLT
Rat's Nest	908-542-3503	14400	WCT
Realm of Imagination	201-338-3569	2400	TeG
Realm of Imagination	201-796-3988	2400	WWV
Red Dragon Inn	201-644-9047	14400	TAG
Red Sector A	609-983-2377	9600	AGA
Remote Host	201-729-7046	2400	MAJ
Reunions USA	908-741-9460	2400	WCT
Revision Systems	609-896-3256	14400	PCB
Rick's Teen Corner	609-461-9597	2400	MAX
Rivendell	908-830-6063	14400	PCB
Rockpile, The	201-941-7778	14400	RMA
Rookie BBS, The	609-753-9313	14400	WCT
Round Table	908-689-2930	14400	WWV
Royle Ace BBS	201-368-9371	14400	TRI
Rutger's Farm Exten'n	201-383-8041	9600	PCB
SEM On-Line Casting	609-875-0842	2400	PCB
Saddle River BBS	201-391-3209	9600	PCB
SafeNET Comm BBS	201-461-7272	9600	PCB
Sail Board	201-831-8152	9600	PCB
SelfHelp BBS	908-289-3981	14400	RMA
Sexy BBS	609-896-3260	14400	WCT
Shadow BBS, The	908-269-4589	14400	RMA
Shadow Spawn	201-293-7778	9600	QBS
Shadowlands, The	908-544-1254	14400	PCB
Shakedown Street	609-823-8615		AGA
Sheer Insanity	908-287-3789	9600	WCT
Shockwave Rider	908-294-0659	9600	RMA
Signal Hill BBS	609-346-9721	9600	
Signs	201-763-6595	1200	OTH
Silicon Dreams	201-895-3754	14400	TAG
Simplicity	201-759-0340	14400	RMA
Sir Video Movie BBS	609-585-4888	2400	
Sky BBS, The	609-770-0017	14400	VBS
Socrate's Ark	908-286-9518		
Software Society South	908-777-7380	14400	
Sonnet Center, Ham	201-694-8122	2400	TBS
Sophisticated Software	908-806-8856	9600	WCT
Sorcery	908-722-2231	14400	QBS
South Amboy BBS	908-525-9305	14400	TBS
South Amboy II BBS	908-525-0299	14400	TBS
South Jersey Shore	609-927-9085	14400	MAX
Spatula	908-968-8235	14400	WAF
Spider's Den	609-893-2876	2400	VBS
Spider's Den, The	908-723-0135	14400	OTH
Splitting Atom	201-573-9262	9600	SLT
SportsBoard	201-731-9425	9600	SLT
Sportsman's Den	201-893-8084	14400	QBS
Squad BBS	609-547-6803		WWV
Stables BBS, The	908-938-5247	14400	SLT
StarGate	908-755-4461		SLT
Starfleet Academy	908-985-9022		
Starfleet CNet	201-402-1072	9600	AGA
Starlifter	201-989-0528	2400	ANT
Starport Omega	609-784-1529	14400	PCB
Starship Enterprise II	201-797-5307	14400	PCB
Starship Enterprises	201-796-6890	9600	PCB
Starship II	201-935-1485	9600	TBS
Static Speakeasy	201-538-2684	9600	AGA
Stocks & Such	201-377-2526	9600	PCB
Stonehenge RIME	609-871-4853		GAP
StrateGEM, The	201-667-1682	2400	RMA
Subterranean BBS	908-918-8287	14400	SLT
Sudden Impulse	201-641-8167	2400	SFR
Sugar Free BBS	201-996-9397	2400	RMA
Summit	908-665-5992		PCB
Sunset Strip	609-683-4962		WWV
Super Software	908-850-1579	14400	WCT
Surreality	201-784-9207	14400	WWV
Sussex Co. NTW Serv.	201-786-6234	14400	AGA
Swinging Door, The	908-525-8471	9600	TBS
Synergy Online	201-331-1797	14400	PCB
Synthesis BBS	908-360-9462	9600	WCT
System One	201-656-7478	14400	WWV
T & S BBS	908-526-1621	9600	RMA
T D Z Domain	201-335-3051	14400	DOM
T.A.S.U.B.	908-968-0526	2400	TAG
T.B.P. Video Slate	201-586-3623	14400	AGA
T.E.R.N. BBS	201-399-4772	14400	QBS
TAO BBS, The	609-587-2672	14400	PCB
TMNT BBS	201-702-7554	9600	RMA
Tammy Board	201-627-7851	14400	WCT
Tanelorn Prime	908-777-2125	14400	WCT
Tardis	609-443-0417		
Terrapin Station BBS!	908-946-3537	9600	18+
The Bird's Nest	908-276-5494	9600	RMA
The Blackroom][	908-758-6356	14400	TBS
The Fire House	908-922-9607	1200	
The Golden Cat BBS	908-341-5458		
The MACnetic BBS	908-469-4603	14400	RMA
The Narrow Way	201-887-0210	14400	QBS
The Oblivion	201-726-0327	14400	RMA
The Right Place	201-947-8231	16800	RYB
The Roach Motel	201-667-3326	14400	QBS
The Silver Bullet	201-812-9352	2400	OTH
The World of Krynn	908-241-0940	14400	FUS
Theta BBS	201-427-9802	14400	TBS
Thieves Guild BBS, The	908-657-0042		WCT
Thunder Inc.	609-627-7279	2400	WWV
Tiger's Jungle	609-953-8436	14400	STF
Tiger's Tale BBS	609-448-5520		WWV
Token Ring	201-546-1468	9600	PCB
Tower's BBS Interna'l	609-327-9133	14400	PCB
Toy Shoppe II	908-280-8812	14400	WCT
Trading Place	609-694-2698	14400	PCB
Trail Blazer BBS	201-742-1860	14400	WCT
Trenton State College	609-530-0486	9600	TBS
Trilogy On-line	201-439-1555	2400	MAJ
Triple Play	609-266-0962	9600	TRI
Turbotalk Softwr.	908-752-9117	14400	OTH
Ultra Violet Dreams	201-652-0830	14400	PCB
Underground BBS, The	609-567-2257		WCT
Underground BBS, The	609-374-0988	14400	PCB
Underground Labs	201-891-2871	14400	TRI
Underwear Grinder	609-778-5708	14400	VBS
Union Lake	609-327-5553	16800	PCB
Unitex	201-678-1367	9600	OPS
UniversityBBS	908-544-8193	14400	MAX
Up on Cripple Creek	908-241-4518	14400	RMA
VETLink #5	201-778-1879	2400	OSI
VIC BBS, The	201-239-1484	14400	TeG
Vector BBS, The	908-276-4405	14400	RMA
ViSiOn/1	908-752-8161	14400	OTH
Video Games Info.	201-509-7851	14400	WCT
Virtual Market Place	609-461-6986	14400	PCB
Visions InfoLine	908-769-1779		WCT
Vitamin Shop, The	609-778-5922	2400	WCT
Viva Amiga	609-227-8278		AMG
Vocations Central	201-643-7851	9600	PCB
Vortex BBS	201-751-5608	14400	TRI
Vulcan-Net BBS	908-769-7882	14400	QBS
Wall BBS, The	609-758-1991	14400	WCT
Wall, The	201-831-9562	14400	RMA
Watchtower	201-316-9373	2400	RNG
Waterside BBS, The	201-641-5375	14400	WCT
WaveLength	201-866-6952	9600	PCB
Weidner Publishing	609-486-7583	14400	PCB
Westway East	201-728-2110	14400	WWV
Whoopie Cat BBS	201-794-0463	14400	SLT
Wild Bill's	609-767-3486	14400	WWV
Wild Bill's BBS	908-671-2528	9600	
Wild Willies BBS	201-912-8915	2400	WWV
Wildcat Support BBS	908-964-3884	9600	WCT
Willy's Wild & Wacky	201-843-8674	9600	WCT
Wine Cellar BBS, The	201-423-5956	14400	WWV
Wiz's World	609-589-3323		
Wizard's Rainbow	609-894-4871	2400	VBS
Wizard's Tower, The	201-393-6740	9600	KIT
Wolf's Lair	609-829-8257	14400	
Woman's Touch	201-347-9284	9600	PCB
Wrong Number, The	201-451-3063	14400	QBS
Xonk's World	908-828-5008	14400	RBS
Your Truly	201-399-0717	14400	VBS
Your Worst Nightmare	201-863-5823	14400	RMA
Z*Net News Service	908-968-8148	14400	OTH
Z-Ware Systems BBS	609-585-8902	16800	ZBD
ZarDan	201-729-0097	9600	QBS

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DataSafe Publications, Inc. is a multifaceted company that develops add-on products for The Major BBS, resells Galacticomm software and runs it's own successful BBS. Whether you are setting up a Local Entertainment BBS, Corporate Support System or a National Online Service, we can help. Give us a call when you are ready to setup your system or when you need to expand your existing system.

The Major BBS 6.12 (2 User)..... $199
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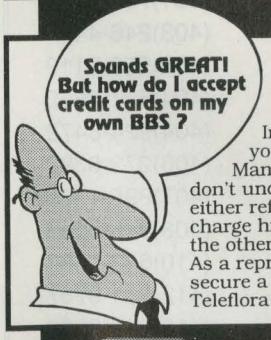

Teleflora CreditLine®

In order to accept credit cards on your BBS you will need to secure a merchant account. Many banks and merchant account vendors don't understand BBSs and how they operate. They either refuse merchant accounts to BBS operators or charge high rates for their services. Teleflora on the other hand knows BBSs and wants your business. As a representative for Teleflora, DataSafe can help you secure a merchant account. Give us a call today for a Teleflora application.

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PDG Founding Member

DataSafe is a member of the Professional Developer's Group (PDG). PDG consists of a group of software developer's dedicated to providing the finest products possible for The Major BBS. When you buy from a PDG member you can count on:

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- Response to Bug Reports
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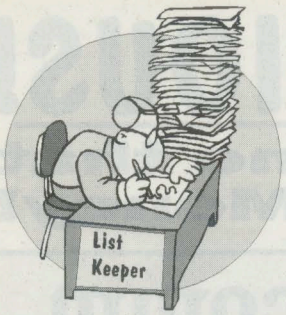

BOARDWATCH
List of BBS List Keepers

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Republic of South Africa	Henk WOlsink	Catalyst BBS	(041)34-1122
Connecticut AC 203	Kevin Brook	Creative Edge BBS	(203)743-4044
BBS With Handicapped Focus	Bill McGarry	Handicap News BBS	(203)926-6168
Seattle AC 206/West Washington	Bob Dinse/Nanook	Eskimo North	(206)367-3837
Tacoma Washington AC 206	Richard Langsford	AmoCat BBS	(206)566-1155
Autocad Related BBS	Jason Osgood	SAUG BBS	(206)644-7115
Kitsap County Washington	Michael Schuyler	Quicksilver BBS	(206)780-2011
Maine 207	Scott R. Bodeen	Street Corner BBS	(207)442-0997
Central California AC 209	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Zen Den Systems	(209)675-8436
Graphical User Interface BBS	David Shapiro	The Gooey (GUI) BBS	(212)876-5885
96 List - 9600+bps BBS	Ken Sukimoto	Downtown BBS	(213)484-0260
Open Access UNIX Site List	Phil Eschallier	LGNP1 (login:BBS)	(215)348-9727
Pennsylvania AC 215/609/302	Ron Brandt	DSC/VOICENET	(215)443-9434
Cleveland Area 216	Jim Barry	Flip Flop	(216)951-9134
Champaign-Urbana IL AC 217	Eddie Thomson	The Dungeon BBS	(217)355-1214
Conservation/Nature BBS List	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Coin of the Realm	(301)585-6697
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	Stan Staten	3WINKs BBS	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS	Richard Barth	HEX BBS	(301)593-7357
Desktop Publishing BBS	Frank Atlee	Infinite Perspective	(301)924-0398
Delaware AC 302	Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn	Talk Radio BBS	(302)429-7667
Medical Issues BBS	Edward Del Grosso	Black Bag	(302)994-3772
Colorado AC 303/719	Willis Morrow	Big Boy's BBS	(303)458-3832
Cave Exploration BBSs	Douglas L. Moore II	The CatEye BBS	(304)592-3390
South Florida Area 305/407	Eric Thav	Silicon Beach BBS	(305)474-6512
Southern California	Mike Hefferman	SOCAL Corner	(310)422-7942
California AC 310	Jim Walton	Illusions BBS	(310)804-3324
Detroit Area 313	Horst Mann	Tony's Corner	(313)754-1131
St. Louis AC 314	Beth Brooks	Fire Escape's Dir	(314)741-9505
ASP BBS Member List	Bob Ostrander	PBS-BBS	(317)856-2087
Engineering Related BBS	Arthur Petrzelka	Computer Plumber	(319)337-6723
Rhode Island Area 401	Mike Labbe	Eagle's Nest	(401)732-5292
Alberta AC 403	Stephen Decarie	T-8000	(403)246-4487
Calgary Alberta AC 403	Jose del Rio	The Quantum BBS	(403)252-5119
Atlanta Area 404	Online Atlanta Society	OASIS	(404)627-2662
Atlanta Area 404	Rodney Aloia	INDEX System	(404)924-8472
Montana Area	Jay Michalik	Valley Light BBS	(406)273-6399
Orlando Florida AC 407	Matt Drury	London BBS	(407)895-1335
San Francisco Bay Area	Mark Shapiro	BABBA BBS	(408)946-5642
Baltimore BBS Area 410	Brad Blase	Silver Streak BBS	(410)683-1583
Pittsburgh AC 412	Chas Stokes	Zuul's Catacombs	(412)264-9787
National BBS List	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	Ameriboard	(412)349-6862
North America Nudist List	Patrick O'Brien	Natural Connection	(414)426-2110
Ontario AC 416	Jeff Young	Tradewinds BBS	(416)503-4388

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Toledo Ohio Area	Ryck Zarick	Programmer's Tech	(419)478-7333
Arkansas Area 501	Bob Underdown	The Blue & The Gray	(501)444-8420
Portland Oregon BBS	Lisa Gronke	DawGone Disgusted	(503)297-9145
New Orleans BBS List	Jeff Jones	Southern Star BBS	(504)885-5928
Worcester MA AC (508)	Jim Metzler	Miwok Village BBS	(508)754-6512
Corpus Christi	James Cordani	Treasure Island	(512)241-8358
Austin Area BBS List AC 512	John Foster	Camel's Back BBS	(512)243-0077
Selected BBS	Joseph Caplinger & Son	J&J's BBS	(513)236-1229
List of Gay/Lesbian BBS	Eric Blair	S-TEK BBS	(514)597-2409
AC 516 Free Shareware BBS	Harold Stein	Long Island Exchange	(516)271-6523
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Wolverine BBS	(517)695-9952
Business/Professional BBS	Dennis Hauser	Delight The Customer	(517)797-3740
Phoenix AC (602)	John Mendivil	Majestic Royalty BBS	(602)278-1651
Phoenix AC (602)	Sue Widemark	Cheese Whiz BBS	(602)279-0793
Cochise County Arizona	Kevin McCrory	The Commo Shack BBS	(602)452-0587
Kentucky AC (606)	Jon Hagee	Kentucky Explorer	(606)271-1451
Wisconsin 608	Jim Wargula	JW-PC Dataflex.HST	(608)837-1923
New Jersey AC 609	Dave Schubert	The Casino PCBoard	(609)561-3377
New Jersey Area 201/609/908	Wayne R. Morton	Praedo BBS	(609)953-0769
Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	Barry Watson	Abiogenetic BBS	(612)774-8454
Apple II BBS	Mike Shecket	Way Out	(614)436-4846
Tennessee AC 615/901	unknown	SPDA Info Service	(615)952-5638
San Diego, CA AC 619	Tom Grigg	ComputorEdge	(619)573-1675
San Diego AC 619	Joe Nicholson	General Alarm	(619)669-0385
Apple II BBS with Internet con	Morgan Davis	pro-sol	(619)670-5379
Virginia AC 703/804	Eddie Gebhard	PC Power House	(703)348-1423
OS/2 BBS Systems	Pete Norloff	OS2/Shareware BBS	(703)385-4325
Washington DC BBS List	Mike Focke	Interconnect	(703)425-2505
Geneology Related BBS	Richard A. Pence	NGS-CIG	(703)528-2612
Charlotte NC AC 704	Blaine Schmidt	Moobasi Optics, Ink	(704)541-9842
Charlotte, NC AC 704	Blaine Schmidt	Moobasi Optics, Ink	(704)541-9842
Black Run/Oriented BBS	Arthur "Rambo" McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Chicago	Paul Chartraw	The Hideaway BBS	(708)748-1911
Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	Rex Chadwell	ChicAAgo Hangar	(708)980-1613
Houston Area 713	David E. Wachenschwanz	Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875
Rochester NY AC 716	Tracy Logan	Logan's Run	(716)328-2914
National 800 Number BBS List	Michael Long	Hayes Online	(800)874-2937
Macintosh BBS	Bill Taylor	Fort Mill Tabby	(803)548-0900
Ecology/Conservation BBS	Bob Chapman	EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389
Firearms Related bbs	Jerry Brunet	Neon Nights	(804)588-4978
Wildcat! BBS	Jim Harrer	Wildcat! HQ	(805)395-0650
Central California Area 805	Larry Honore	His Board	(805)652-1478
Oahu Hawaii	Brent Davis	Land's End BBS	(808)499-2527
Technical Support BBS List	Gary Barr	Digicom BBS	(812)479-1310
Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813	Emery Mandel	Mercury Opus	(813)321-0734
Kansas City Area 816/913	Roy Timberman	Sound Advice	(816)436-4516
Dallas/Ft Worth Area 214/817	Mark Robbins	Second Sanctum	(817)784-1178
Occult BBS	Phil Hansford	Mysteria	(818)353-8891
Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS	John Rigali	Night Gallery	(818)448-8529
Alaska AC 907	Patti Johnson	Alaska Pirate Soc.	(907)248-9364
Darwin National USBBS List	Bob Breedlove	Bob's BBS	(916)929-7511
OS/2 Related BBS	Dave Fisher	LiveNet 1:170/110	(918)481-5715
Tulsa Oklahoma Area BBS List	Linda Hargraves	ACCESS AMERICA	(918)747-2542
Raleigh NC Area Code 919	Mike Stroud	Micro Message Svc.	(919)779-6674
U.S.S.R. BBS List	Serge Terekhov	Court Crimson King	7-3832-356722

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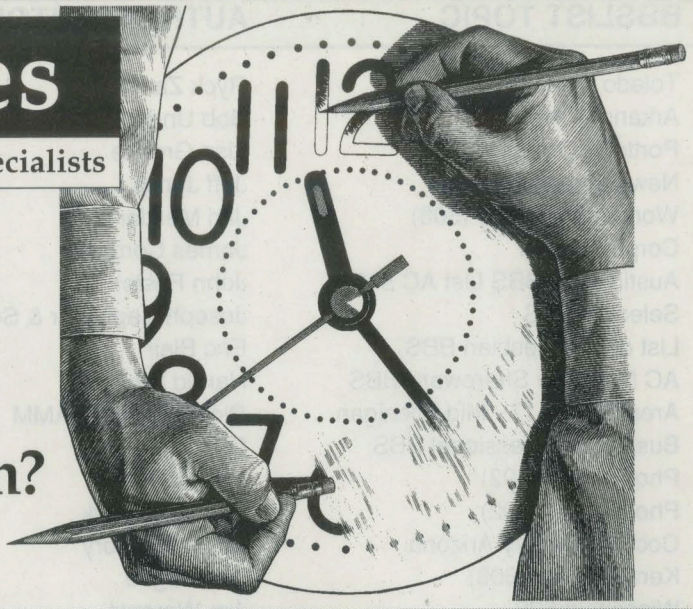

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GW Associates was formed several years ago to promote and support the growing need for Information Management systems (BBS). Our goal has always been to make communications easier. We've always had the opinion that many seem to work very hard to make "telecommunications" some kind of mystery, a gray area where common man should never wander. And it really can be made simple. We'll be happy to show you how!

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Our ONLY business is telecommunications. We install commercial information management systems, we install telecommunications networks linking offices across the country using personal computers and inexpensive automated software. And we sell everything from single line TBBS software to 64 line "plug and play" packages.

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We have been building a matrix of associates around the world with the capability of installing and maintaining private and commercial TBBS/TDBS Bulletin Board Systems and that matrix is in place to help you in any way we can. If you would like someone to visit your site to do a full needs assessment or to help you with an existing TBBS/TDBS installation we will be happy to place you in contact with one of our associates nearby. And as all our associates work together as a team you can take advantage of their many years of accumulated experience with TBBS systems.

Call Today For More Information

If there's anything we can do to help you make better use of any communications tool, please ask. If you're not sure if you really have a need for a system and want to know more, please ask. We're here to help in any way we can. We hope you'll give us the opportunity to help. If you need information on prices or just need information on communications, don't hesitate to ask for help. We enjoy what we do and we'll enjoy discussing your applications and needs.

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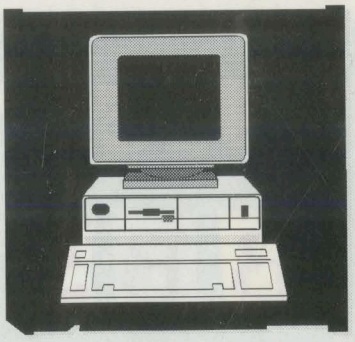

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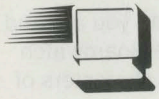

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SystemMaster

SystemMaster allows COMPLETE and easy control of any TBBS/TDBS system. It features the ability to store and launch any TBBS command from a database of individual commands or from Prgram Groups which allow sequential execution of specific commands that YOU group together. You can even sort the commands or time their execution speed. It has Context sensitive help which automatically pops-up in a window whenever you add or edit a TBBS command, it provides a complete suite of easy to use SYSOM and DOS commands and facilities far beyond what you've ever seen before in a TBBS/TDBS, it provides a COMPLETE TDBS control area which allows you to create, modify, pack, zap, search and edit any TDBS database and index file, and much much more!

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Synergy Online Communications (201)331-1797 Parsippany, New Jersey since 07/93. Sysop: Jim Boxmeyer. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 30 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10000 MB storage. Cardinal at 38400 bps. No fee. Full FREE access on first call. Internet/Usenet, RIME, Intelec, and U'NI-net. 1000's of recent files online (92/93). All nodes are running V.32 high speed modems. NEW files daily! Contact the world through Synergy! HUGE ADULT AREAS - 1000's of GIFs!

Video Game Information Service (201)509-7324 Montclair, New Jersey since 10/90. Sysop: Mark Astarita. Using WildCat 3.9 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1100 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. The premier BBS for the Electronic Gamer. Home of the World's Largest Collectionof Video Game Hints and Cheats. All Game Related Echos from the major networks, including Internet, Fidonet and Globalnet. Free Access on First Call.

Central Core BBS (201)575-8991 Montville, New Jersey since 01/85. Sysop: Mike Cocke. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 2500 MB storage. ZyXel at 38.4K bps. No fee. Primarily a technically oriented BBS specializing in source code and hardware information. Member of ILink, BASNet and NNJNet echo mail networks. We also provide usenet access.

The HOT Tub Chat Lounge (201)617-8054 Union City, New Jersey since 12/89. Sysop: George Eppich. Using MajorBBS V6.11 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8100 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. LOTS of CHAT 24 Hours/day with a National Chat Hookup from 7pm to 1am EVERYNIGHT! Meet other MEN & WOMEN across the USA! Chat about ANY & ALL topics. Participate in OUR EVER POPULAR ADULT CHAT! Matchmaking services available! Lots of files, msgs & games!

The GearBox (201)692-1110 New Milford, New Jersey since 11/01. Sysop: Mark Paris. Using Synchronet 1c with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 4000 MB storage. ZyXEL at 19200 bps. $10 Points fee. Full Featured Multiline system. 4 Nodes, real time chat, doors, 200+ Fidonet confs., 250+ Relaynet Confs., 35000+ Files. Software Distribution Network, Doornet, and much more! Point System subscriptions and flat rates. Visa/MC.

Dreamline Information Network (201)765-9090 Florham Park, New Jersey since 10/92. Sysop: Anthony Stramaglia. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5000 MB storage. Aceex at 9600 bps. $25.00 Annual fee. Mention this ad and get trial access. But look at what just $25 a year gets you: 7 CD-ROMs, adult sections, Interlink chat, MajorNET echos, huge online arcade of games and external doors, RIP support, high-speed lines, friendly dedicated staff and users.

Chat Chalet (201)791-8850 Saddle Brook, New Jersey since 04/91. Sysop: Ronnie Meier. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 24 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 877 MB storage. Practical at 14400 bps. $10.00 Monthly fee. "Where New Friends Meet" (We get over 700 calls each day) Send us your picture we will make you a GIF (FREE)

BEACON STUDIOS BBS (201)863-5253 Union City, New Jersey since 01/93. Sysop: Conrad Koblack. Using Major BBS 6.11 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 15090 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. $.50 Hourly fee. Free trial period and Free downloads to new users. NJ's largest database of D/L files with 18 CD's on-line. NJ's largest Non-X rated Graphics database with 6 Graphics Libraries. Voice/Customer Support line. 2 National Chat linkups, and MajorNet.

MAJORBBS/MAJORNET BBS OPERATORS

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Jezebel's Parlour BBS (201)927-2932 Flanders, New Jersey since 04/92. Sysop: Beverly Delisa. Using TBBS 2.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 120 MB storage. US Robotics at 9600 bps. $50.00 Annual fee. Over 7 gigabytes of files, including adult graphics. New in-house scanned Gif files added each week. Online games and databases, user to user chat, conference areas, and adult matchmaking. The BBS with the feminine touch!

Lord Melkor's Domain (203)322-9447 Stamford, Connecticut since 08/89. Sysop: Frank Gentile. Using VBBS 6.11b with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1120 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. $30 Annual fee. Many international message networks including: USENET, VNET, ICENET, and ADULTNET. INTERNET E-Mail access is available. 35+ online games including: The Pit and Tradewars 2002. Multi-line chat.

Wolf's Information Center (203)797-1322 Danbury, CT since 11/93. Sysop: Brian Stein. Using Searchlight 3.5 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $Low Monthly fee. Internet E-mail, Usenet news, Fidonet, 5+ Gigs online including Adult file & message areas. ALL lines 14.4k. Instant Access. CD-ROM giveaways. Come see why we're Connecticut's Fastest Growing BBS, and the friendliest stop on the information highway!

King of the Cats (206)340-9058 Seattle, WASHINGTON since 11/93. Sysop: Mike Richan. Using Searchlight 3.5 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $9.00 Monthly fee. Graphical Online World (GOW) where dogs speak a strange language, mice become the most wonderful toys, and a cat would be King (maybe you!) An entire city awaits your exploration. Constantly changing - unique, intriguing. Create your cat - call now!

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Black Forest (207)259-0950 East Machias, Maine since 11/93. Sysop: Gary L. Lester. Using WildCat 3.9 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80486 with 204 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. General purpose BBS, featuring CD-ROMs from profit press using Megadoor routine. something for everyone.

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Substation BBS (516)364-4450 Woodbury, New York since 04/86. Sysop: Paul Blaccard. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 16800 bps. No fee. Comics & Animation, Nutrition, Corvette Forums. Amateurs In Action magazine online. With the best adult direct contact Gifs. Throbnet echo conference. Lots of Mac and Amiga shareware files too! Voice support / Questions: 516 921-8312

America's Suggestion Box (ASB) (516)471-8625 Ronkonkoma, New York since 02/92. Sysop: Joe Jerszynski. Using TBBS 2.2 with 16 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 9000 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. $22 Quarterly fee. 50000+ files, ASP approved, Shareware Showcase, Boardwatch, USAToday, Internet E-mail, Usenet! Would you like to see a computer product or service improved? Call and see why you and ASB can make a difference! Generous access time & download privs.

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Altoona-On-Line (814)-942-0195 Altoona, Pennsylvania since 08/92. Sysop: Douglas Warner. Using WildCat 3.90 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2400 MB storage. PPI at 14400 bps. $30 Annual fee. InterNet E-Mail & UseNet NewsGroups. Easy 1-900 Subscription, ASP Approved BBS, 10,000+ files online, no ratios. Online DOOR's. Special uNdeRgRouNd section for those who dare. Free (3) day trial. MVP Software Distribution Site. RIP graphics!

The Wine Connection BBS (818)718-5994 Winnetka, California since 11/93. Sysop: Paul Sennett. Using TBBS 2.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 250 MB storage. ZOOM at 14400 bps. No fee. Your Best Connection for Fine Wine! Communicate with other Wine Enthusiasts about Fine Wines you want to Buy or Sell and also about many other Wine Topics. Glossary of Wine Terms, Grape Varieties, California's Premium Wineries, and much more!!!

Isle-Net (908)495-6996 North Middletown, New Jersey since 10/84. Sysop: Dan. Using TBBS 2.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 244 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $45 Annual fee. Internet mail, Usenet newsgroups, erotic fantasies written by members. Free chat on your first call! Challenging games, lots of files to download. Stop by and have your Tarot cards read online. We do it better because we've done it since 1984!

The Dealmakers BBS (908)730-9002 Belle Mead, New Jersey since 07/93. Sysop: Ted Kraus. Using PCBoard 15 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 100 MB storage. Hayes at 19200 bps. No fee. Covers all aspects of commerical real estate, promotes dealmaking, networking. Has a For Sale, For Lease conference, A Q&A section, Internet mail, online newsletter, files and shareware on real estate to D/L and discusses, promotes mgmt. & development.

InfoMarket Express (908)879-7209 Chester, New Jersey since 01/93. Sysop: Edward Brzezowski. Using PCBoard 14.5a with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 400 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. No fee. InfoMarket Express - Where information is bought and sold online. Free access, no subscription or registration fees. Providers make money when their files are sold. Please note that 908 is a new area code in NJ and not a 900#.

The Underground BBS (908)914 2221 Beachwood, New Jersey since 12/86. Sysop: Sir William. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 24 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 4000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $5 Monthly fee. The ORIGINAL Underground, one of NJ's biggest and most popular systems. RIPgraphics, 4 CD Roms, Killer ANSI, XXX Adult Available, Global Commands and Actions, online DOORS, Mall, multiplayer teleconference games including TeleArena. It's worth the trip.

Bits and Bytes BBS (909)356-5762 Fontana, California since 09/91. Sysop: Barly Redsar. Using PCBoard 15 with 7 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 6500 MB storage. US Robotics at 16800 bps. $20 Annual fee. BEST BBS around! You do not believe us? Well call and find out for yourself! How can you go wrong? Over 35000 files online (every week we have 500 new files), 50 Door games, 600 conferences (RIME, U'NI, Rosenet, & Throbnet). Large ADULT ONLY GIFs.

NightVision (909)369-6556 Riverside, California since 11/93. Sysop: John Williams. Using WildCat 3.90 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $69 Annual fee. Massive library of Adult GIFs and Text Files, Monthly Amateur Contests, Live Group and Private Chat, Online Games, Matchmaker Database, E-Mail. Setting the Standard for Adult Entertainment.

Legend Graphics OnLine (909)689-9229 Riverside, California since 11/91. Sysop: Joey Marquez. Using PCBoard 15 with 10 lines on LAN Network 80486s with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $60 Annual fee. Nation's One Stop Graphics BBS! You will be impressed! Huge Adults Only File Areas! Simply the BEST in Southern California! SuperVGA Photo Images, Video in Motion MoviePICs! Visa MC AmExp Optima accepted.

ExecNet (914)667-4567 Mount Vernon, New York since 11/85. Sysop: Andy Keeves. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 20 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 14000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. $Fee Flexible fee. Bringing you the world. Free online eval. time. 8 hrs/call, up to 32MB download/call. 90K+ files, 4K Int'l confs., Usenet/Internet, Immediate access with major credit card, Fantasy Area. Email to/from Compuserve, MCI. 10MB+ new files daily.

The Lost Carrier BBS (914)964-0419 Yonkers, New York since 01/92. Sysop: Gerry Schechter. Using PCBoard 15.0/10 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 660 MB storage. HST/DS 16.8K at 16800 bps. No fee. Full FREE access at all times! Official Apogee/Epic/MVP dist site. Let your hair down in the Free4All conference. Download on your first call. Online games. Call now if you just want to have some fun. Sysops call for info on LostNet network

My Favorite BBS (916)381-2851 Sacramento, California since 10/91. Sysop: Kevin King. Using WildCat 3.9M with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 680 MB storage. PP at 14400 bps. No fee. Helping Sysops, Computer Resellers, find sources for BEST prices, Hardware & Software in USA. Starting a Computer Biz? Call, D-L: RESALE94.ZIP, or write: Disk-Count Data, PO Box 277482, Sacramento, CA 95827-7482. Send $1.00 for 3.5 disk.

Hackney's Hideaway BBS (916)755-3964 Yuba City, California since 06/87. Sysop: Rich Hackney. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80486 with 800 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Over 300 megs of online files plus 350 echomail conferences from the Intelec, Smartnet, PEN,Ilink networks. A very little used BBS over USR DS service, no validation, no waiting - get 60 minutes free access per day. How can you beat that?

For Adults Only BBS (916)962-3973 Sacramento, California since 01/88. Sysop: Dale DeBord. Using Oracomm-PLUS 7.1 with 17 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. $14 Quarterly fee. Sacramento's largest and friendliest Adult CHAT/FILES System. Adult Message Bases, CHAT, GIF, GL, DL, FLI, Text and Game FILES. FREE Member GIFs. DISCOUNT Member Plans for Students and Military. FREE 3-HOUR TRIAL PERIOD. DOWNLOAD ON FIRST LOGON!

Black Gold BBS (918)272-5386 Tulsa, Oklahoma since 06/81. Sysop: Michael Cline. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 12 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 25000 MB storage. US Robotics at 57600 bps. $25 Annual fee. Full PageSat and Planet Connect! 25+ gigs, USAToday, Over 100 Doors, Full time SYSOP's and much much more. Many free areas and files with 45 minutes free access per day. 225 file areas and over 200,000 zip files. Customer support.

Micro Message Service (919)779-6674 Raleigh, North Carolina since 10/82. Sysop: Michael M. Stroud. Using TBBS 2.2 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 7500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. $45.00 Annual fee. NC's # 1 online info service support for PC, Mac, Amiga and Atari ST. Hundreds of new files added weekly. Expert leaders for each SIG. Authorized eSoft dealer, system design and TDBS programming. Give your online system a leading edge, call us first.

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PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
June 29, 1993
ZyXEL U-1496 PLUS

PC PROFESSIONELL EMPFEHLUNG DER REDAKTION
February 1993
ZyXEL U-1496E PLUS

PC Digest RATINGS REPORT
"The ZyXEL U-1496E PLUS costs less than many of the V.32bis modems that it outperforms."

JULY 1993 BYTE BEST VALUE HIGH-SPEED MODEM
ZyXEL U-1496E PLUS

JULY 1993 BYTE BEST TWO-WAY ALL-AROUND MODEM
ZyXEL U-1496E

COMPUTER SHOPPER
July 1993, ZyXEL U-1496E PLUS
ZyXEL U-1496 PLUS
Top 10 List

PC Computing HARDWARE 200 1993 TOP RATED
June 1993
ZyXEL U-1496E

NETWORK WORLD
"The ZyXEL modem is faster... practically across the board."

Data Comm MAGAZINE Top Performer JULY 1993
ZyXEL U-1496 PLUS

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE
November 1992
ZyXEL U-1496
ZyXEL U-1496E

Winter 1992 ZyXEL U-1496
Awarded 5 NextWORLD Cubes

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - January 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
ADA 9X Project Bulletin Board	(800)232-9925	ADA Programming Language Revisions and News	Chris Anderson/Susan Carlson	Eglin AFB ,FL
ADA Information Clearinghouse	(703)614-0215	Information on ADA Programming Language/Military Specs	Department of Defense	Washington ,D.C.
Advanced Data Services Inc.	(301)695-9116	22 line PCBoard with 5.5 GB of Files	Blaine Brodka	Frederick ,MD
Alamo PC Organization	(210)496-5558	Numerous Files, Info	Robert Schoenert	San Antonio ,TX
Albuquerque ROS	(505)299-5974	36000 files/USA Today/Tradewars/Online Games	Steven Fox	Albuquerque ,NM
Alternatives BBS	(604)430-8080	Greenpeace and environmental issues	Bob Lyons	Vancouver ,BC
America's Suggestion Box	(516)471-8625	BBS Devoted to Collecting and Distributing Consumer Feedback	Joseph G. Jerszynski	Ronkonkoma ,NY
American Cybernetics BBS	(602)968-1082	Multi-Edit Product Support BBS	American Cybernetics	Tempe ,AZ
ANARC BBS	(913)345-1978	World Radio/TV Handbook - Short Wave Freq Lists/Scheds.	Assoc. of North American Radio Clubs	,KS
APCUG - GlobalNet	(408)439-9367	Association of PC User Groups - Over 2000 UG officers	Paul Curtis/APCUG	Scotts Valley ,CA
Applied Modeling Research RBBS	(919)541-1325	Environmental Protection Agency Atmospheric Models	William Peterson/EPA	Hurdle Mills ,NC
Aquila BBS	(708)820-8344	6 GB 25 Nodes Fidonet/Interlink/Metronet MCe IL/CHI Graphics	Kevin Behrens/Steve Williams/Doug Bell	Aurora ,IL
Argus Computerized Exchange	(617)674-2345	Multiline Community Chat Service - Restuarant Review dbase	Pam Morrison	Lexington ,MA
AST Technical Services BBS	(714)727-4723	Superb support system for AST Computer Products	AST Research Inc.	Irvine ,CA
AT&T Support BBS	(908)769-6397	Support for PC 6300 and Other AT&T PC Models	American Telephone/Telegraph PC Division	Plainfield ,NJ
ATI Support BBS	(416)756-4591	Support for ATI Modems and Video Cards	ATI Technologies	Scarborough ,Ontario
Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875	Houston Area BBS list and Connect! Magazine	David Wachenschwanz	Houston ,TX
Atri BBS	(903)758-2784	4 Gigs Online All Fidonet Message areas Over 200 door games	Walter Cade	Longview ,TX
Attention to Details	(714)681-6221	Utilities/ASP/Patriquin Utils/Protocols	Clint Bradford	Mira Loma ,CA
Audiophile Network	(818)988-0452	High-end Audio Components, Music, Video Reviews	Guy Hickey/Quatre Speakers	Van Nuys ,CA
Automobile Consumer Services	(513)624-0552	New Car Pricing Reports - Used Car Value Reports	Automobile Consumer Services Inc.	Cincinnati ,OH
AviTechnic 1:261/662	(301)252-0717	Software Distribution System - BBS Utilities	Tom Hendricks	Lutherville ,MD
BBS America	(214)680-3406	Home of DFW Online Electronic Newsletter	Jay Gaines	Richardson ,TX
BCS BBS	(213)962-2902	Los Angeles' First Super BBS Under Development	Jim Lee	Los Angeles ,CA
BCS IBM BBS	(617)964-2540	IBM PC Topics - TBBS Software (Internet)	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston ,MA
BCS Info Center BBS	(617)621-0882	General Topics - TBBS - Internet Mail	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston ,MA
BCS Mac BBS	(617)864-0712	Macintosh Topics - Firstclass BBS Software	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston ,MA
Beach Board BBS 1:371/1	(813)337-4950	Over 100 online games - Internet Mail - 8 lines - 48000 fls	Dave Ward	Fort Myers ,FL
Beyond Eternity	(310)371-3734	Home of EEEK! Bits - Weekly Electronic Trivia Magazine	J. Black/K. Taghadossi	Torrance ,CA
Beyond the Realm	(805)987-5506	200+ message areas 60+ file areas Fidonet VNet Adult Topics	Lee Ladisky	Camarillo ,CA
BMUG BBS	(510)849-2684	Support for Macintosh owners - files - conferences.	Berkeley Macintosh Users Group	Berkeley ,CA
Boardwatch Magazine Online Info	(303)973-4222	Distribution Service for USA Today/Boardwatch/Newsbytes	Boardwatch Magazine	Littleton ,CO
Book BBS	(215)657-6130	Information on 2000 Computer Books - 800 order number	Business & Computer Book Store	Willow Grove ,PA
Book Stacks Unlimited	(216)694-5732	200,000 Book Titles Database - Online Ordering	Charles Stack	Cleveland ,OH
Borland Download BBS	(408)431-5096	Utilities, Macros, Programming Examples for Borland Products	Borland International/Mike Fitz-Enz	Scotts Valley ,CA
Botnay Bay EIS	(603)431-7229	20 GB of Files - Adult areas - BBS Lists	Myles Bratter	Portsmouth ,NH
Boundary Waters BBS	(218)365-6907	Canoe Trips/Resorts/Fishing/Wilderness in Minnesota	Gary Knopp/InfoNorth	Ely ,MN
Bruce's Bar & Grill	(203)236-3761	24-line Social System - Chat - Games - Downloads	Bruce Lomasky	West Hartford ,CT
Bryant Software	(303)733-0773	Support & Demo of Bryant Software & TBBS Products	Alan Bryant	Denver ,CO
C.A.R.L Library Service	(303)758-1551	Citations to 4 Million Texts in Colorado Library System FREE	Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries	Denver ,CO
CAD/Engineering Service	(615)822-2539	Computer Aided Design File Distribution Network 1:116/32	Stan Bimson	Hendersonville ,TN
Canada Remote Systems	(416)213-6003	23GB/400000+ files, 3500 Conf's,USENET, IBM/Amiga/Mac	Neil Fleming/Jud Newell	Mississauga ,Ontario
Capital PC User's Group BBS	(301)738-9060	One of the oldest PC User's Groups - 5500 members	Capital PC Users Group/Roger Fajman	Rockville ,MD
Castle Tabby 107/412	(908)988-0706	Home of TABBY Fidonet Interface Program for Apple Macintosh	Michael E. Connick	Bradley Beach ,NJ
Caverns of the Abyss	(405)482-2980	4 Gigs Online CD Roms	Shannon Graham	Altus ,OK
CBBS/Chicago	(312)545-8086	First Electronic Bulletin Board - Since 2/16/78	Ward Christensen/Randy Suess	Chicago ,IL

Celebration Station	(207)374-5161	Adventure Games, Chat, and Sigs - Children	Noel Stookey (Paul of Peter,Paul & Mary)	Blue Hill Falls ,Maine
Central Point Software	(503)690-6650	PC Tools - Central Point Anti-virus support board	Central Point Software Inc.	Beaverton ,OR
Channel 1	(617)354-8873	70-line PCBoard - 8 GB Files - Internet - 1000's msg. confs.	Brian Miller/Tess Heder	Cambridge ,MA
Chicago SysLink	(708)795-4442	Special Interest Areas for Ferret/Pet Owners.TRS80/Aviation	George Matyaszek	Berwyn ,IL
Chinet	(312)283-0559	UNIX System offering Internet Mail	Randy Suess	Chicago ,IL
City Lites PCBoard	(701)772-5399	9 GB files, Rimenet, Internet, FidoNet, ASP, Online Orders	John Lundell	Grand Forks ,ND
Classi Computer Fieds	(317)359-5199	Online System for Classified Advertisements	Steve Edsall/Trader Newspaper	Indiannapolis ,IN
Classified Connection BBS	(619)566-7347	Giffy Girls - Nude GIF Images of the Girl Next Door	Bill Kennon	San Diego ,CA
Cleveland Freenet	(216)368-3888	Cleveland City Info/Public Library - Free Internet Mail Box	Case Western University/AT&T/Ohio Bell	Cleveland ,OH
Cloud Nine	(713)855-4382	15 meg, 30 Nodes	Harold Lucas	Houston ,TX
Colorado Connection	(303)423-9775	Breeding, Raising, Taming, Exotic Birds	Terry Rune/Dave McClauggage	Arvada ,CO
Community News Service (CNS)	(719)520-5000	News and Entertainment - 17 Lines Community Focus	Klaus Dimmler	Colorado Springs ,CO
Compact Audio Disk Exchange	(415)824-7603	Buy/Sell/Trade Compact Audio Disks Online	Wayne Gregori	San Francisco ,CA
Computer Business Services	(909)396-0014	Book/Publishing Consultant John C. Dvorak & Nick Anis' BBS	Nick Anis Jr.	Diamond Bar ,CA
Computer Garden	(301)546-1508	Treasure Hunting - Metal Detectors - Online Catalog	Milford P. Webster	Salisbury ,MD
Computing Canada Online	(416)497-5263	Adjunct to Excellent Canadian PC Newspaper	Computing Canada Newspaper	Willowdale ,Ontario
Crosstalk Communications BBS	(404)740-8428	Product Support for Crosstalk for Windows/MK4/XVI	Digital Communications Associates	Roswell ,GA
Cul-de-Sac Bar & Grill	(508)429-1784	Multiline Service - Ham Radio - Humor - TDBS Applications	Pete White	Holliston ,MA
CyberStore - a COCONET BBS	(604)526-3676	All lines to v.32bis/v.42/v.42bis. CyberTools for BBS'es	CyberStore Online Info. Systems Inc.	New Westminster ,BC
DAK Online Resource Center	(818)715-7153	DAK Mail Order Catalog - Breakmakers - CD ROMS - Computers	DAK Industries/Tom Krogh	Canoga Park ,CA
Dark Side of the Moon	(408)245-7726	Home of WAFFLE, Unix UUCP BBS Software for DOS and UNIX	Thomes E. Dell/Darkside International	Mountain View ,CA
Data Bank	(913)842-7744	Information HQ, Support Board, Net-Mail & Files	Bob Oyler	Lawrence ,KS
Data Core BBS	(310)842-6880	25 line Major BBS	Matthew Schoen/Delta Enterprises	Los Angeles ,CA
DataLink RBBS System	(214)394-7438	Weather Satellite Imaging, NOAA Satellite Tracking-AMSAT-NA	Dallas Remote Imaging Group/Jeff Wallach	Carrollton ,TX
Dawg Byte	(615)385-4268	ANSI Art Club 1:116/29	Kevin Snively	Nashville ,TN
Deep Cove BBS	(604)536-5885	16 line TBBS, 3500 MBytes files for IBM, MAC, Amiga	Wayne Duval	White Rock ,BC
Denver Exchange, The 104/909	(303)623-4965	Denver's Most Diverse Gay/Lesbian Info Service	James Craig	Denver ,CO
Denver Free-Net	(303)270-4865	Free Community Online Service - Health Info	University of Colorado Health Science	Denver ,CO
DNIS	(619)864-1468	Outstanding BBS Gateway to multiple information services	Mike Simmons	Palm Springs, CA
Distant Mirror BBS	(615)648-1782	Free Access BBS	Steve Perlo	Clarksville ,TN
Distributed Info Service	(718)727-1456	Information Service	Joseph Bianco	Staten Island ,NY
Duke Graphics of San Diego	(619)793-8360	7 CD Roms Online, 4 gigs 50,000 files	Chris Duke	San Diego ,CA
EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389	Wildlife/Conservation Art Gallery GIF Images	Ambassador Wildlife Gallery/Bob Chapman	North Charleston ,SC
Ed-Net	(604)732-8877	Vancouver School Board Multi-Line Educational Network	Barry Macdonald/Vancouver Board of Ed	Vancouver ,BC
Electric Ideas Clearinghouse	(206)586-6854	Energy Efficiency Efforts In Pacific Northwest-HydroElec	Bonneville Power Administration WSE	Olympia ,WA
Electronic Publishers BBS	(503)624-4966	News-Finance-Sports-Games-2GB File Library	Brian Cash	Portland ,OR
Electronic Zone, The	(412)349-3504	Specializing in Hypertext	William R. Forbes	Indiana ,PA
Energy Info Admin E-Publications	(202)586-8658	Variety of Petroleum/Coal/Electricity Energy Statistics	US Department of Energy	Washington ,D.C.
Entertainment & Graphics	(503)697-5100	Entertainment & Graphics	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego ,OR
eSoft Product Support BBS	(303)699-8222	Home of The Bread Board System (TBBS) BBS Software	Phil Becker/eSoft Inc.	Aurora ,CO
Event Horizons	(503)697-5100	64 Line Digitized Graphics Image Library - Adult .GIF files	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego ,OR
EXEC-PC	(414)789-4210	Largest BBS in US - 280 Lines -650,000 files - 35 Gigabytes	Bob and Tracey Mahoney	Elm Grove ,WI
Executive Network	(914)667-4567	Interlink Netmail National Host - Multiline PCBoard System	Andy Keeves	Mt. Vernon ,NY
Eye Contact BBS	(415)255-5972	22 line Oracomm - Gay Issues - Popular Chat System	Bill Montgomery	Mill Valley ,CA
Falken Support BBS	(703)803-8000	Support for FALKEN software - 16 lines - doors - chat	Herb Rose	Woodbridge ,VA
Farwest BBS	(604)381-3934	Large Western Canada Galacticomm Info System	Ren L'Ecuyer	Victoria ,BC
FAX/Satellite Services BBS	(619)224-3853	NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics	Scotty Olson	San Diego ,CA
FCC Public Access Link	(301)725-1072	Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service	Federal Communications Commission	Columbia ,MD
FEDLINK ALIX II	(202)707-4888	Info on Federal Libraries -Excerpts Library of Congress News	Federal Library Information Network	Washington ,D.C.
Fido Tech Stand	31-30-735900	Fidonet Technical Information for Holland	J.J. van der Maas	Utrecht ,Holland
File Cabinet	(815)399-8978	Files, Games, Message areas		Rockford ,IL
Fire & Ice	(313)373-8608	A Family BBS With Christians Discussions	William Sims	Drayton Plains ,MI
Fisherman's Net	(614)837-0400	Dedicated to Fisherman	Lloyd Davidson	Carroll ,OH

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BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - January 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
FOG City BBS 125/10	(415)863-9697	Gay Community BBS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACs	Bill Essex	San Francisco ,CA
Foundation Online Service	(203)968-8752	15+ Gigs 8 Lines Internet	David Deutsch	Stanford ,CT
Fred the Computer	(508)872-8461	Newspaper BBS. Wierdnet Newswire. List of MA Libraries	Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin	Framingham ,MA
FreeBoard BBS, The	(804)744-0797	Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212	Bill Hunter	Midlothian ,VA
Fun Connection	(503)753-8431	Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News	Vincent Reece	Corvallis ,OR
Galacticomm Demo System	(305)583-7808	Customer support for Major BBS	Galacticomm	,
Garbage Dump	(505)294-5675	Hottest Chat in America - National Access $1.75 per Hour	Dean Kerl & Simon Clement	Albquerque ,NM
Gateway Communications BBS	(714)863-7097	Novell Netware/TCP-IP Shareware Utilities	Carol De Jesus	Irvine ,CA
Gateway On-Line	(313)291-5571	Interactive Chat,MulitiplayerGames,Usenet/Internet,E-mail	Jeff Breitner/Bill Mullen	Rockwood ,MI
GDP Technologies	(303)673-9470	Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system	Tom Getty's	Lafayette ,CO
General, The	(619)281-8616	Popular File Library - GIF Images	Marc Teitler	San Diego ,CA
GISnet BBS	(303)447-0927	Graphics Information Systems/Mapping topics	Bill Thoen	Boulder ,CO
GLIB	(703)578-4542	Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps	Community Educational Svcs. Foundation	Arlington ,VA
GPO WINDO Online Service	(202)512-1387	Fed Information from EPA, DOE, State Department - others.	US Government Printing Office	Washington ,DC
Greenpeace Environet	(415)512-9108	Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife	Dick Dillman/Greenpeace	,
Hackers R Us Online	(602)945-8416	Online Games, Files & Tech Discussions	David Ray	Scottsdale ,AZ
Hackers World BBS	(309)672-4405	Adult Files, Fidonet Echo-Mail Adult-net	Martin Belcke	Peoria ,IL
Harris City Medical BBS	(713)790-1093	Medical Information	Monica Faulk	Houston ,TX
Hayes Advanced Systems Support	(800)874-2937	Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers. V-series/Ultra	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross ,GA
Heartland Free-net	(309)674-1100	Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes	Peoria County Board/Bradley University	Peoria ,IL
Herpnet/Satronics TBBS	(215)698-1905	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Mark Miller	Philadelphia ,PA
HH Info-Net BBS	(203)246-3747	MS Windows and OS/2 Files our specialty	Lee Winsor	New Hartford ,CT
HoloNet	(510)704-1058	National Access,INTERNET,USENET,CHAT,GIFS,FILES	Information Access Technologies, Inc.	Berkeley ,CA
HouseNet BBS	(410)745-2037	Home Fixup/Repair/Renovation Tips, Advice, and Articles	Gene and Katie Hamilton	St. Michaels ,MD
Howard's Notebook 1:280/25	(816)331-5868	Environmental, Peace, Justice since 1982 - 4 nodes	Jim Howard	Kansas City ,MO
Hysterics	(613)231-7144	Amiga File Distribution Network 1:163/109	Russell McOrmond	Ottawa, Ontario ,
IBM National Support Center BBS	(404)835-5300	IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange	IBM National Support Center	Atlanta ,GA
Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect	(212)989-4675	Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service	Harry Newton Publications	New York ,NY
Index Systems	(404)924-8414	Excellent list of Atlanta BBS systems online	Rodney Aloia	Marietta ,GA
Infinite Space Online	(407)856-0021	32 Line Interactive Chat & Games Majornet	Charlie Scherker	Orlando ,FL
InfoHost Demo BBS	(201)335-2253	Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database	A-Comm Electronics Inc.	Hasbrouch Heights ,NJ
Inns of Court, The	(214)458-2620	LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/6101	Arthur Geffen	Dallas ,TX
Intel PCEO Support BBS	(503)645-6275	Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286	Intel Corporation PCEO Division	Hillsborough ,OR
Inter Comm	(702)359-2666	6 Line 5.5 Gig 30,000 Files	Roger Brown	Spark ,NV
InterMail Tech Support BBS	(305)436-1884	Home of InterMail, Front End Mailer for FidoNet 1:369/102	Patrik Bertilsson	Hollywood ,FL
Invention Factory	(212)274-8110	46 Lines - 100 Directories - Full Usenet Feed - 8.2 GB	Mike Sussell	New York ,NY
Investor's Online Data	(206)285-5359	Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis	Don Shepherdson	Bellevue ,WA
JDR Microdevices BBS	(408)559-0253	Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes	JDR Microdevices	San Jose ,CA
JOBBS	(404)992-8937	Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps.	Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin	Roswell ,GA
Keith Graham Shareware Support	(914)623-0039	OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities	Keith P. Graham	Nyack ,NY
KIMBERELY BBS	(612)340-2489	Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discount Rate-Economic Data	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	Minneapolis ,MN
King's Market BBS 104/115	(303)665-6091	400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support	Jim and Karen Burt	Boulder ,CO
Knight Vision BBS	(213)344-3600	Chess and Backgammon - 8 lines - "Intelligent Entertainment"	Matthew Beelby	Pasadena ,CA
Lace's Place	(718)822-3552	Female Domination Adult BBS online since 7/91	Ellen Grogan	New York City ,NY
LANtastic BBS	(602)293-8065	Support for LANtastic local area network	Artisoft Inc.	Tucson ,AZ
Late Night Software 125/555	(415)695-0759	Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to UUCP/Usenet	Tim Pozar	San Francisco ,CA

LegalEase	(509)326-3238	Legal issues/Forms - Law BBS List	Bill Sorcinelli	Spokane ,WA
LICA Limbs BBS	(516)561-6590	Member written software PC Board 15.0 USR HST Since 1980	Dave Minott	,
Lincoln Cabin BBS	(415)752-4490	General Interests & Rime	Steve Pomerantz	San Francisco ,CA
MAC-LINK	(514)486-8959	Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Infomat/BIX	Mark Smith	Montreal ,Quebec
Macalot Bulletin Board	(412)846-5312	Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh	Jeff Dripps/FreeSoft Company	Beaver Falls ,PA
MacCircles	(303)526-2219	Mac System Software distributor, mail, sigs, files	Patricia O'Connor	Golden ,CO
MacInternational	(803)798-3755	Macintosh support since April '85. FirstClass BBS	Ralph Yount	Columbia ,SC
Magpie BBS	(212)420-0527	Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software	Steve Manes	New York ,NY
MaxiHost Support BBS	(209)836-2402	MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS	Don Mankin	San Ramon ,CA
Mayan Antiquities	(214)691-1316	Mayan Culture and Antiquities	Ron Whipple	Dallas ,TX
McAfee Associates BBS	(408)988-4004	Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP	John McAfee/CVIA	Santa Clara ,CA
Med Technet	(716)688-1552	A BBS for Medical Info	Bill Hliwa	East Amherst ,NY
Meeting Works, The	(212)737-6932	Meeting/seminar/convention planning information.	John Mackenzie	New York ,NY
METRO Online Entertainment	(212)831-9280	32 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat	Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services	New York City ,NY
Micro Foundry, The	(415)598-0398	2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch	Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software	San Jose ,CA
Micro Message Service	(919)779-6674	USA Today/Boxoffice Magazine - Large Download Area	Mike Stroud	Raleigh ,NC
Microrim Technical Support BBS	(206)649-9836	Support for Popular R:Base Relational Data Base System	Microrim Corporation	Redmond ,WA
Microsoft Download BBS	(206)936-6735	Windows Technical Notes and Support Information	Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker	Bellevue ,WA
Microsystems Software Inc.	(508)875-8009	HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities	MSI - Reed Lewis	Framingham ,MA
MindVox	(212)989-4141	Internet Access, E-Mail, Newsgroups, ftp/telnet	Phantom Access Technologies	New York ,NY
Minnesota Spacenet	(612)920-5566	Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News	Ben Husset	Minneapolis ,MN
MOG-UR'S EMS, The	(818)366-1238	5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HST/V.32	Tom Tcimpidis	Granada Hills ,CA
Monterey Gaming System	(408)655-5555	A Custom Multi-user BBS with Conferencing and Custom Games	David Janakes	Monterey ,CA
Mountain Air BBS	(703)427-0226	Adult Based BBS	Edward Lee Wood, Jr.	Roanoke ,VA
Movie BBS	(718)939-5462	Movie Reviews and Information - Television	Clarke Ulmer	New York ,NY
N.A.C.D. BBS	(912)246-3280	Cave Scuba Diving - Superb Special Topic System	National Assoc. of Cave Divers	Gainsville ,FL
N8EMR Ham BBS	(614)895-2553	login:hbbs HAM Radio/AMSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet	Gary Sanders	Westerville ,OH
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	(613)727-5272	NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software	MicroStar Corp.	Nepean ,Ontario
NASA Spacelink	(205)895-0028	NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History	Marshall Space Flight Center	Huntsville ,AL
Nashville Exchange	(615)383-0727	12 line TBBS - Games/TDBS Software Development 1.8 GB	Ben Cunningham	Nashville ,TN
National Genealogical BBS	(703)528-2612	Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting	National Genealogical Society	Arlington ,VA
Netcom Internet Guest System	(408)241-9760	Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info.	Netcom Online Communications Services	San Jose ,CA
Network World Bulletin Board	(508)620-1178	LAN and WAN Issues and Technology	Network World Magazine/CW Communications	Framingham ,MA
Newbed	(506)453-2147	Educational System K12 Net	William Brydges	Fredeericton ,NB
Newton Express BBS	(215)943-6606	14.5 Gigs/700+Sigs 18 Lines Large Adult Section USA Today	Anthony Maglietta	Newton ,PA
Night Shift, The	(818)955-5155	16 lines/chat/Usenet Newsgroups/Internet Mail/USATODAY	Charles Hilt	Burbank ,CA
NIST ACTS	(303)494-4775	Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Boulder ,CO
NOAA Space Environment Lab	(303)497-5042	Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online	National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin	Boulder ,CO
NoGate Consulting	(616)530-3392	Home of PAK archive utility	Mike Neuhaus Gus Smedstad	Grand Rapids ,MI
North Castle BBS	(507)281-8292	Minnesotas #1 RPG BBS	Rob Richter	Rochester ,MN
O&E Online	(313)591-0903	Free Community BBS, Editorial Text from Newspapers	Greg Day	Livonia ,MI
OAQPSTTN	(919)541-5742	Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net	Environmental Protection Agency	Research Triangle Pk ,NC
OASIS BBS	(404)627-2662	Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL	Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society	Decatur ,GA
Occupational Health/Safety BBS	(212)385-2034	Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers	Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts	New York ,NY
Odyssey	(818)358-6968	Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads	Michael Allen	Monrovia ,CA
ODYSSEY	(818)358-6968	Largest Adult Based Entertainment Service In North America	Michael Allen	Monrovia ,CA
OERI BBS	(800)222-4922	Educational Statistics and Data - Performance Stats -	US Department of Education	Washington ,D.C.
Old Colorado City Communications	(719)632-4111	Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline	Dave Hughes	Colorado Springs ,CO
Online Now	(807)345-5522	Canada's shareware house is online now	Gary Walsh/Tom Haavisto	Thunder Bay ,Ontario
Online With Hayes	(404)446-6336	Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross ,GA
Oracle PC	6108 260-6222	South Australian TBBS Multiline System	Don Crago	Pooraka South Australia ,
Oracomm Support BBS	(612)894-5879	Sales and Support for Oracomm Multiline BBS Software	Surf Computer Services	Minneapolis ,MN
Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036	Birdwatching, Bird feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues	Fran and Norm Saunders	Colesville ,MD

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BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - January 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
Ozone Hole, The	(504)891-3142	Boardwatch-USA Today-Internet-Usenet-RIME	Mike Mathews	New Orleans ,LA
P.D.S.L.O. BBS	(516)938-6722	Home of THE LIST National BBS List	James Toro	Hicksville ,NY
PacComm BBS	(813)874-3078	Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems	Gwyn Reedy/PacCom Inc.	Tampa ,FL
PC Junction BBS	(615)478-2890	Smartnet Throbnet 100,000 Files & Online Magazines	Douglas Carpenter	Cleveland ,TN
PC Ohio	(216)381-3320	Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 24 lines	Norm Henke	Cleveland ,OH
Pennywise	(800)752-3012	Online Office Supply Sales Service	Pennywise	Edmonston ,MD
PHYSICS Forum BBS	(413)545-1959	Physics and Astronomical Sciences	Univ.of Mass. Dept. of Physics/Astronomy	Amherst ,MA
Pinecliffe BBS 104/28	(303)642-7463	Large Shareware Library/Echomail Conferences since 1985	Craig Baker	Pinecliffe ,CO
Pinnacle Software BBS	(514)345-8654	Support for Sapphire BBS Software	Timothy Campbell/Pinnacle Software	Montreal ,Quebec
Pipeline, The	(209)592-9861	Construction topics for contractors, suppliers, public works	Michael W. Adams	Fresno ,CA
PKWare BBS	(414)354-8670	Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility	Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated	Glendale ,WI
Pleasure Dome	(804)490-5878	Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only	Tom Terrific	Tidewater ,VA
Practical Peripherals BBS	(805)496-4445	Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems	Practical Peripherals	West Lake Village ,CA
ProComm Support BBS	(314)875-0503	Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgrms	Thomas Smith/DataStorm Technologies Inc.	Columbia ,MO
Promised Land, The	(715)387-1339	16-Line/2.5GB/11,000+ Files/ WINDOWS, Chat & More	Tim Brown/Computer Solutions	Marshfield ,WI
Public Brand Software BBS	(317)856-2087	Commercial Shareware Vendor	Public Brand Software	Indianapolis ,IN
Public Connection	(817)738-7336	Public Files	Joe Coles	Ft Worth ,TX
QMail Deluxe Support BBS	(615)230-8822	Support for QMail Deluxe and 1stReader offline mail utils	Mark (Sparky) Herring	Germantown ,TN
Qualitas, Inc. BBS	(301)907-8030	386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support	Qualitas Inc.	Bethesda ,MD
Quarterdeck BBS	(310)314-3227	Technical Support for QEMM, DESQview, all Quarterdeck Prods	Quarterdeck Office Systems	Santa Monica ,CA
QuickBBS Support BBS 363/34	(407)896-0494	Product Support for QuickBBS Software	Richard Creighton/Steve Gabrilowitz	Orlando ,FL
Random Access Information Svc.	(503)695-3250	11,000 GIF Images - 20,000 DOS/Windows Shareware Files	Janice Stevens	Corbett ,OR
RoboBOARD/FX	(819)682-7771	RoboBOARD Support 8 Lines	Hamilton TeleGraphics Inc.	Aylmer ,PQ
Ronin BBS	(214)938-2840	Traditional File and Message BBS	Chuck Mattern	Red Oak ,TX
Rose Media	(416)733-2780	19 GB - Home of Rosemail - Publications/Conferences	Vic Kass	Willowdale ,Ontario
Rusty & Edies	(216)726-0737	Large ML PCBoard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Tradewars	Rusty and Edwina Hardenburgh	Boardman ,OH
Sahara Club BBS	(818)893-1899	Land-Use issues, Off-Road, Timber, Conservation	Patrick Martin/Sahara Club	North Hills ,CA
Sailing IC BBS	(301)643-1466	National sailing system, yacht racing and clubs, tall ships	Darren Albert	,MD-
Salt Air BBS	(801)261-8976	Home of PCBoard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys	Clark Development Company/David Terry	Murray ,UT
San Diego NeXT User's Group BBS	(619)456-2522	Support for NeXT Computers	Brian Dear/San Diego NeXT User's Group	San Diego ,CA
SBA Online	(800)697-4636	Advice for Small Business Owners on Financing/Management	Small Business Administration	Washington ,DC
Science Resource Studies BBS	(202)634-1764	Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics	National Science Foundation	Washington ,D.C.
SDN Project, The 1:141/840	(203)634-0370	The Original Software Distribution Network	Ray Kaliss	Meriden ,CT
SEAboard!	(804)442-6047	Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software.	System Enhancement Associates	Nassawadox ,VA
Seagate Technical Support BBS	(408)438-8771	Installation and Specifications for Hard Drive Models	Seagate/Bill Rudok	Scotts Valley ,CA
Searchlight BBS	(516)689-2566	Support system for Searchlight BBS Software	Searchlight Software	StonyBrook ,NY
SemWare Support BBS	(404)641-8968	Home of QEdit - A Superb Shareware Text Editor	Sammy Mitchell/SemWare Software Products	Marietta ,GA
SENDIT	(701)237-3283	North Dakota K-12 Educational Net-telnet sendit.nodak.edu	Gleason Sackman/NDU	Fargo ,ND
SIGCAT BBS	(703)648-4168	CD-ROM /Optical Publishing Info - Lists of Gov. CD Data	SIG on CD-ROM Applications and Technol.	Gathersburg ,MD
Sistema Profesional Informacion	525 590-5988	Largest BBS in Mexico - Spanish Language TBBS	Tecnologia Uno Cero S.A. de C.V.	Mexico City ,
Skeleton Closet, The	(804)671-8547	Geneology Programs File Distribution Net 1:271/23	Debbi McKay	Virginia Beach ,VA
Society for Technical Comm. BBS	(703)522-3299	STC Job Service, Freelance Registry - Technical Writers	Society for Technical Communication	Washington ,D.C.
Software Creations BBS	(508)368-4137	Home of Apogee Software/Commander Keen Series	Dan Linton	Clinton ,MA
Sound Advice BBS	(816)436-4516	Twenty Line PCBoard with 2 Gigabytes Storage - HST Modems	Roy Timberman	Gladstone ,MO
Source for Source, The	(516)968-7824	Source code - large LINUX file collection	Erik VanRiper	Bay Shore ,NY
Space BBS	(415)323-4193	Multi Node BBS for Engineers	Owen Hawkins	Menlo Park ,CA

Spectrum Online Systems	(719)576-6853	Graphics Based Service, Full Internet Access	Chris Phillips	Colorado Springs ,CO
Star-Link Network BBS	(718)972-6099	9-nodes, 2.1GB, Ilink, 75,000 programs	Michael Keylin	Brooklyn ,NY
Starlink BBS	(915)235-4818	Technical Support for Predictive Maint Customers	John Land	Sweetwater ,TX
State and Local Emergency Mgmt.	(202)646-2887	Hazardous Materials/National Dam Watch/Emergency Info	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Washington ,D.C.
Streame	(718)349-8137	Connecton to the World of New York Book Publishing	BookStreame	Brooklyn ,NY
Sun Valley Net	(208)726-1435	Information & Files on environment & outdoors	Stephen Schowengert	Ketchum ,ID
Superdemocracy Foundation BBS	(305)370-9376	Online Democracy/Political Culture for the Future	Tim Stryker	Davie ,FL
T-80 BBS	(403)246-4487	3.6 Gigs, 4 CD Roms 7,000 GIFS 20,000 Shareware Programs	Brian Simpson	Calgary ,AB
TAXACOM	(716)896-7581	Botany, Herbaria, FLORA ONLINE Newsletter, Latin Translation	Clinton Herbarium, Buffalo Museum	Buffalo ,NY
TEAMate Unix Bulletin Board	(310)318-5302	Demo/Support for TEAMate BBS Software for Unix	Bob Baskerville/MMB Development Corp.	Manhattan Beach ,CA
Telebit Support BBS	(408)745-3229	Support for Telebit Modems	Telebit Corp.	Sunnyvale ,CA
Telegodzilla	(503)621-3746	Home of ZModem File Transfer Protocol/YModem/YAM	Chuck Forsberg/Omen Technology Incorp.	Portland ,OR
Telepath	(415)358-8641	DBMS/Dr. Dobbs Journal Magazine Online Service	M&T Publishing	Redwood City ,CA
Telix Support BBS	(919)481-9399	Support Service for Telix Communications Software	Jeff Woods/deltaComm Development	Cary ,NC
The Back Room	(718)849-1614	America's Largest Exclusively Gay DB - Home of Gaycomm	Fred Kohn	Richmond Hill ,NY
The Business BBS	(619)576-0049	Business Related Files & Info	Doug Rowan	San Diego ,CA
The Business BBS	(310)477-0408	Utilities/Support for Microsoft Windows	Jim Appleby	Los Angeles ,CA
The Club House BBS	(908)272-2073	ADA, OSHA, RTN, 18 CD Roms Online & 30+ Games	George Porcella	Cranford ,NJ
The Eastside BBS	(407)337-1274	Family Oriented BBS Files, Conferences and Online Games	David Lane	Port St Lucie ,FL
The Electronic Grapevine	(707)257-2338	Local Online Message and Info Provider, Rime Node	Dick Wolff	Wapa ,CA
The File Bank	(303)534-4646	16 Line File Library - Radio Comm/Astronomy - USA Today	Girard Westerberg/Brian Bartee	Littleton ,CO
The Hot Heart of Tennessee	(615)890-8715	Home of hot programs, supports PC, Amiga	Larry Reeves	Murfreesboro ,TN
The Ledge PCBoard	(818)896-4015	Home of Textview Door for PCBoard Systems	Joseph Sheppard	Tujunga ,CA
The Liberty BBS	(714)996-7777	Nation wide Chat, E-Mail, Forums, games, CD-Roms,Online News	John Galt	Anaheim Hills ,CA
The New Professional Network BBS	(413)549-8136	Hundreds of software and is job openings nationwide, FREE	ADA, National Tech. Search/Eric Davis	Amherst ,MA
The Opowd Crowd	(708)885-8865	Specializing in outdoor activities and sports		Hoffman Estates ,IL
The Other BBS 1:1/0	(717)657-2223	Fidonet Zone Coordinator for North America 1:1/0	George Peace	Harrisburg ,PA
The Well	(415)332-6106	Unix Conferencing System - $15 monthly plus $2 Hourly	Whole Earth Lectronic Link	Sausalito ,CA
Thunderbolt BBS	(703)373-9289	Various Files & Message Areas	John Schreiber	Falmouth ,VA
Tiger Team Buddhist Info Network	(510)268-0102	America's Buddhist Online Service	Gary L. Ray	Berkeley ,CA
Titan BBS	(904)476-1270	Adult BBS - Online Games - GIF Images	Clayton Manson	Pensacola ,FL
Tool Shop BBS	(818)891-6780	Home of HS-Link and other tools for PCBoard Systems	Sam Smith	,
Town Hall	(800)648-6964	Conservative Political Conference and Debate	National Review Magazine	New York ,NY
Trinity 1 BBS	44 392 410210	United Kingdom Distributor of Boardwatch Magazine	John Burden	Exeter Devon ,U.K.
TurBoard	(404)395-6327	NAPLPS Graphics BBS System	Software@work	Chattanooga ,TN
U.S. Robotics - Sit UBU Sit	(708)982-5092	Support for US Robotics HST 9600 bps Modems	U.S. Robotics Corporation	Skokie ,IL
US Naval Observatory BBS	(202)653-1079	Time - Date - Sunrise - Sunset - Enter @TCO for Commands	US Department of Commerce US Naval Obser	Washington ,D.C.
USDOE BBS	(202)260-9950	Currently available grants and contracts for Education	U.S. Dept. of Education/George Wagner	Washington D.C. ,
USGS Quick Epicenter Determin.	(303)273-8672	Earthquake Epicenter Data - Geomagnetism7E2 800-358-2663	US Geological Survey Earthquake Info Cnt	Denver ,CO
USNO Time of Day for Clocks	(202)653-0351	Xmits ASCII Time String - Sync Your PC to USNO Atomic Clock	US Naval Observatory	Washington ,D.C.
UT Library Online Catalog	(512)471-9420	Online Library Card Catalog Listing 3.5 million entries	University of Texas at Austin	Austin ,TX
WeatherBank	(800)827-2727	Online Weather Forecasts for Any City - Download Radar Data	Steve Root/WeatherBrief Data Services	Salt Lake City ,UT
Western Digital Tech Support	(714)753-1068	Hard Drive/Controller Installation and Config Data	Western Digital Corporation	,
Westside, The	(213)933-4050	Area's Largest/Most Active Adult System-Chat,E-mail,Games,	Dave Harrison	Los Angeles ,CA
Wildcat HQ BBS 210/12	(805)395-0650	Multiline Support System for Wildcat BBS Software	MSI - Mustang Software, Inc.	Bakersfield ,CA
Windsor Manor	(203)688-4973	Over 27 Online Adventure Games	Jim Taylor	Windsor ,CT
Wizard's Gate,The	(614)224-1635	Multi-Line Totally Free BBS-Multi Player Games,Files,Message	Joseph G. Balshone	Columbus ,OH
Word Perfect Customer Support	(801)225-4444	Word Perfect 4.2/5.0/5.1 Support/Printer Drivers	Word Perfect Corporation	Orem ,UT
Worldview BBS	(510)676-2919	Reformed Protestant Topics; Telefinder Host	Bill Gram-Reefer	Concord ,CA
WWIV Support BBS	(310)208-6689	Support for WWIV BBS Software	Wayne Bell	Rolling Hills Estates ,CA
XTree BBS	(805)546-9150	Support for XTree Pro Gold DOS Shell Program	XTree Company	San Luis Obispo ,CA
XyQuest Support BBS	(508)667-5669	Support for XyWrite Word Processor - Custom Keyboard Files	XyQuest Inc. - Christine Madsen	Bellerica ,MA
Yellow Dream Machine BBS	(512)451-3222	Disability Rights Issues - Variety of Disability Newsletters	Bill Scarborough/Cyanosis Rex	Austin ,TX

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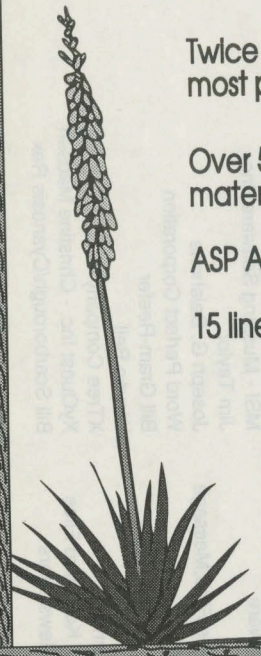

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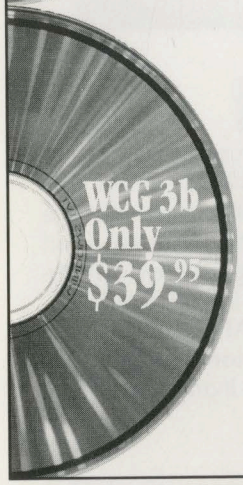

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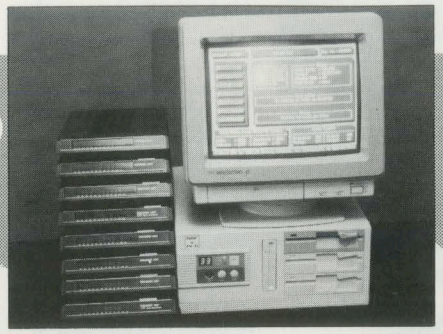

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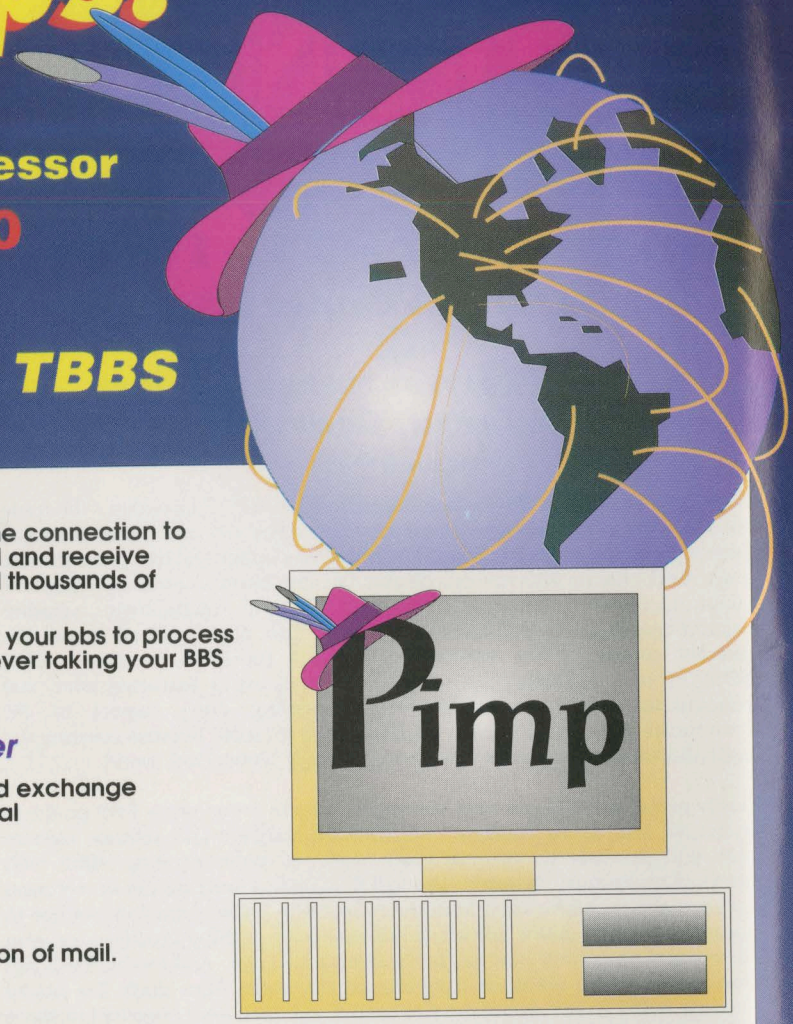

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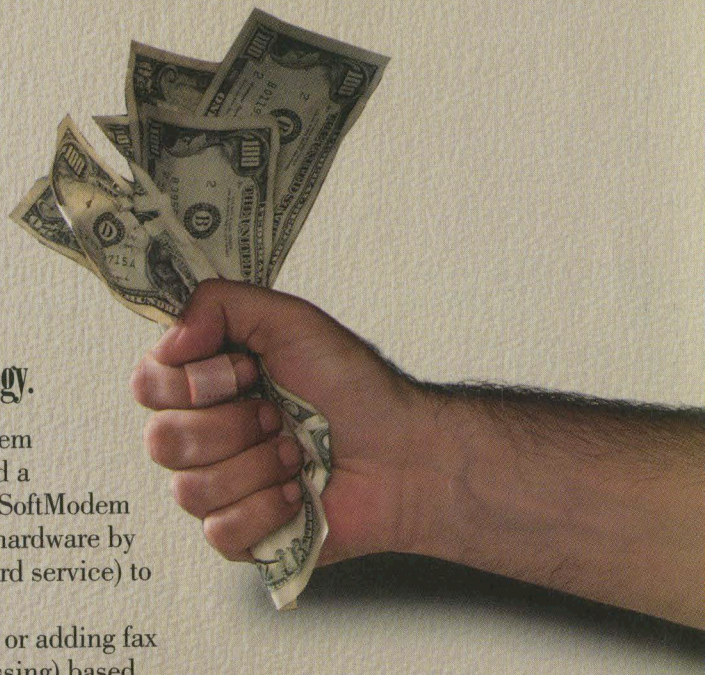

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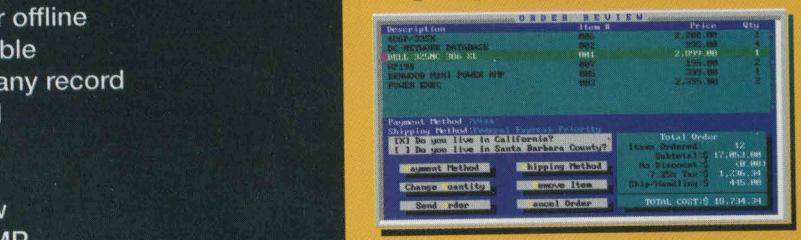

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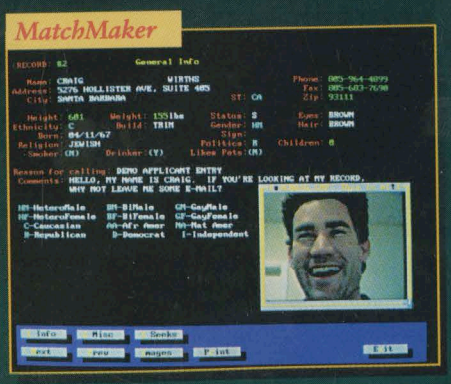

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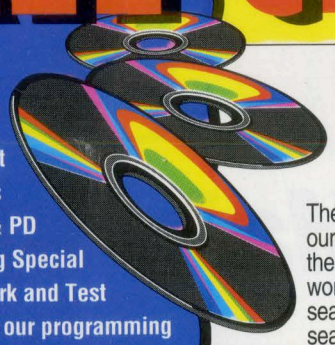

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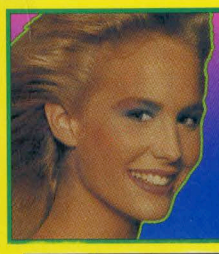

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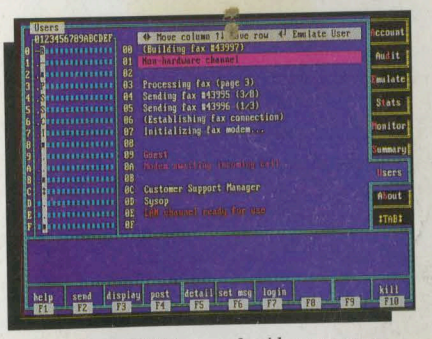

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